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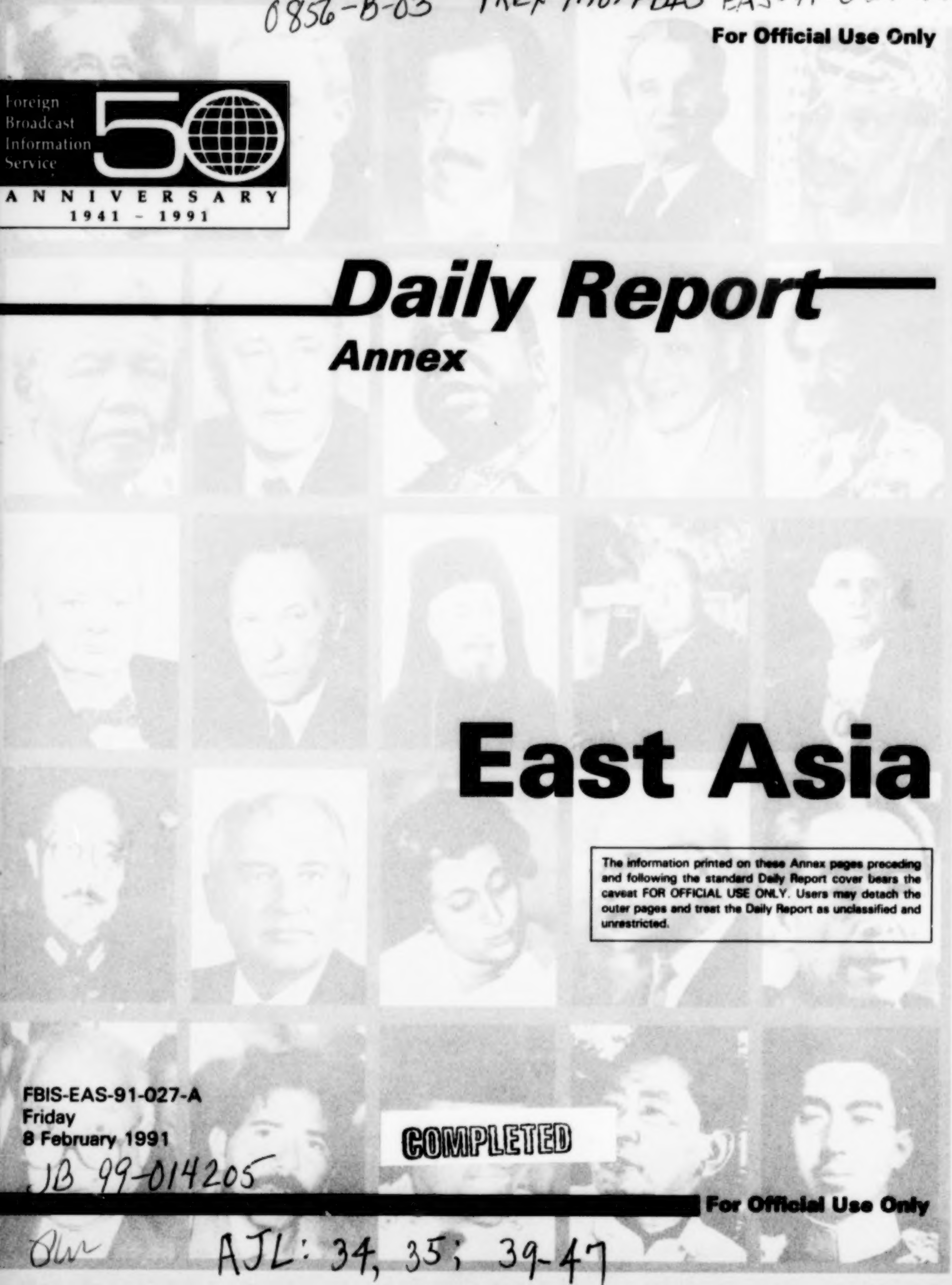

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Daily Report
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Japan

Soviet Union's Mideast Conference Plan Rejected

OW2601111091 Tokyo JIJI in English 1445 GMT 25 Jan 91—FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 25 (JIJI PRESS)—The Soviet Union urged that a proposal for holding an international peace conference on Middle East issues be included in a joint press release issued after a regular foreign ministerial meeting between Japan and the Soviet Union earlier this week, it was learned Friday.

A Foreign Ministry source said the Soviet Union also insisted on expressing concern over further escalation of the Gulf war in the joint press release.

The Japanese side, however, opposed the Soviet proposals, claiming that the inclusion of the Middle East conference as a precondition for ending the Gulf war would be equal to Japan's approval for Iraq's attempt to link the Gulf crisis to the Palestinian issue, the source said.

Japan also objected to the joint press release's expressing concern over the escalation of the war because it would hamper the operations of the U.S.-led multinational forces against Iraqi troops, the source said.

Japan has expressed full support for the allied troops' use of force against Iraq in an effort to drive it out of Kuwait in line with a U.N. resolution.

Before talks between Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama and his Soviet counterpart Aleksandr Bessmertnykh began early this week, the Japanese and Soviet Governments had basically agreed to issue both a joint press release and a joint statement. While working on them, howemer, the Soviet side newly proposed issuing only a joint press release containing calls for holding the peace conference and halting escalation of the war, the source said.

The Soviet Union finally withdrew the proposals in exchange for Japan giving up issuing a joint statement, the source said.

Paper Reports Further

OW0202112291 Tokyo THE DAILY YOMIURI in English 1 Feb 91 p 3—FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

["Behind the Scenes" column by Minoru Hirano: "Moscow Meet Focuses on Gulf: Japan Refuses Soviet Initiative"]

[Text] Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama told Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev in Moscow on Jan. 23 that he feared the war would lead to the destruction of the Persian Gulf oil fields.

Gorbachev said he shared this fear and believed this would have a disastrous international impact. Gorbachev, according to one Foreign Ministry official, did not show any sign of fatigue despite the international outcry over the Kremlin's armed intervention in Lithuania and Latvia, and the multitude of other problems he faces. For nearly two hours, the Soviet president "vigorously" gave his opinions on a wide range of problems. Gorbachev also prsented new ideas on ways to break the deadlock in Japan-Soviet relations but what these ideas were was not disclosed. Gorbachev said that Moscow contacts Washington every day to discuss the Gulf situation.

Nakayama gained the impression that Gorbachev thought the initial phase of the war had ended and that countries belonging to the nonaligned movement should try once again to mediate an end to the hostilities. Gorbachev's forceful opnions prevented Nakayama from achieving one of his aims in Moscow.

Before Nakayama left for Moscow, one senior Foreign Ministry official expressed hope that the two countries would issue a joint statement on the Gulf war as they did last September during then Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's visit to Japan. The official reminded the press that while Japan and the Soviet Union are not part of the multinational forces, both of them attach importance to relations with the United States.

For this reason, the Foreign Ministry went to great lengths not to infuriate Moscow. The ministry issued a halfhearted statement of regret over Soviet military intervention in Lithuania and omitted from a statement on Latvia any mention of intervention by Soviet troops.

In response, Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksander Bessmertnykh agreed to issue a joint statement expressing concern about the Persian Gulf situation, recognizing the importance of a series of U.N. Security Council resolutions and calling for continued talks between Tokyo and Moscow. At the last momemnt, however, the Soviet Union proposed a joint statement that included calls for an international conference on the Middle East and self-restraint in military actions. The proposal probably stemmed from Gorbachev's analysis of the war situation.

Japan could not accept the proposal because Tokyo fully supports Washington's policy of not linking such a conference to the Gulf crisis and had just decided to give $9 billion to the multinational forces. Thus, the two countries did not issue a joint statement.

Immediately after his return from Moscow, Nakayama heard news of the oil slick in the Gulf and admitted that the war was taking the course he feared.

In Moscow, Gorbachev's spokesman, stressing that the time might be right for a new Gulf peace initiative, disclosed that Moscow was discussing a series of ideas with Western countries including the United States. Although sounded out by Gorbachev on the ideas, Nakayama refused to join the peace initiative.

In a televised panel discussion, one business leader said that many people in the business community had privately complained about the United States' haste in launching its attack on Iraq and that this mood was spreading. The more the war escalates, the more vociferously the Japanese people will ask: "Why didn't the government exhaust all efforts to de-escalate the war before it paid part of the costs of the war?" and "Why does Japan follow only the United States?"

Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu has just started a difficult battle in the Diet to win its endorsement for Japan's deeper involvement in the war.

Gorbachev To View Islands Issue 'Realistically'

OW2701105991 Tokyo THE DAILY YOMIURI in English 26 Jan 91 p 6—FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

[YOMIURI SHIMBUN 25 January editorial: "We Welcome Gorbachev's Visit"]

[Text] Despite the increasing turmoil in the Soviet Union, particularly in the Baltic republics, Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev finally set April 16-19 as the dates for his visit to Japan. This is significant for bilateral relations and the world at large.

By personally announcing the time of his visit, the Soviet president made clear his intention to work for better bilateral relations. The visit, the first ever of a top Soviet leader to Japan, is an important step in this direction. We seriously hope it will provide both nations the starting point for a new era.

The Kremlin's military intervention in Lithuania and Latvia is simply forcible repression of their attempts at self-determination. It also betrays the growing power of the Soviet military and the KGB, neither of which is particularly enamored of Gorbachev's perestroyka program.

The moves may also adversely affect Moscow's role in the Persian Gulf war. We fear that Soviet Army sympathy for Baghdad, and Moscow's concerns about increasing ethnic conflict in the Soviet Union, may weaken its willingness to maintain unity with Washington in the Gulf crisis.

Given these circumstances, Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama's talks with Gorbachev and the new Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh provided an important opportunity to study recent developments in Soviet foreign policy. The issue is timely, since Eduard Shevardnadze recently resigned as foreign minister, warning of the dangers of renewed dictatorship.

Perestroyka Continues

Gorbachev told Nakayama that there would be no changes in his perestroyka policy and that he would strive to find a political solution to the woes of the rebellious Baltic republics. He also pledged to coordinate actions and policies with Washington over the Gulf crisis.

Gorbachev's statements should be regarded as an affirmation to the world that, despite problems, Soviet foreign policy would not be undergoing an abrupt change of course. A part of this message was the announcement on the exact date of his visit.

Announcement in Moscow of a joint Japan-Soviet declaration on the Gulf war was canceled on Soviet request, even though both sides had agreed on the wording of the announcement. It seems that the Soviet Union balked at voicing its clear-cut support for the U.S.-led multinational forces in the Gulf.

At a press confeence, Gorbachev had laid blame for the recent violence in Lithuania and Latvia squarely on the rebellious citizens of those republics. He also vowed to use his presidential authority to crack down on the movements in those republics toward more democracy and liberalization.

'Realism' on Disputed Isles

Gorbachev told Nakayama that the Northern Territories issue, crucial to any improvement of bilateral relations, must be approached realistically. He said no immediate solution was apparent.

This remark makes clear that no immediate progress toward better Japan-Soviet ties emerged from their talks. Yet it is significant that the mutual dialogue has itself taken on an importance not only for the two nations participating but for the world at large.

It will be ever more important for our two nations to hold constructive discussions over such international concerns as the Gulf war, movement toward reunification on the Korean peninsula and the continuing dilemma of Cambodia.

For both Japan and the Soviet Union to cooperate in quest of world peace, some progress must be achieved on the northern territories issue. We hope that the Soviet president's planned visit to Japan will promote this end.

Paper Analyzes Gorbachev Remarks

OW0402094491 Tokyo YOMIURI SHIMBUN in Japanese 4 Feb 91 Morning Edition p 3—FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

[Text] It has been made clear that, at his recent talks with Foreign Minister Nakayama, Soviet President Gorbachev had indicated a very strict perception of the northern territories issue. He reportedly told Foreign Minister Nakayama, "There was the possibility of improving Soviet-Japanese relations on the basis of returning two islands, but this chance has been lost now."

A source interested in Japanese-Soviet relations disclosed this on 3 February. This, the source said, "pertains to the 1956 Soviet-Japanese Joint Declaration, in which the return of Habomai and Shikotan islands to Japan was expressly stated." The source expressed the view that the Gorbachev remarks are aimed at cooling off the hopes entertained by some quarters on the Japanese side that President Gorbachev might, at least, mention something about the reversion of Habomai and Shikotan islands when he visits Japan in April.

The talks between President Gorbachev and Foreign Minister Nakayama were held at the Kremlin on 23 January. With regard to the focal territories issue, the Japanese foreign minister called for a "drastic decision" by the Soviet president, saying: "The reversion of Habomai and Shikotan Islands (to Japan) has been determined by the Japan-Soviet Joint Declaration. The so-called return of four islands boils down to the question of Kunashiri and Etorofu."

It was later announced by the Japanese side that President Gorbachev had made the following remarks in response: 1) I am aware of the importance of the issue as well as Japan's position and public opinion. 2) However, the question is complex. It is necessary to look at it realistically, and there is no solution to to be found off-hand now. However, the portion of his remarks pertaining to "the return of two islands" has not been made public. The Foreign Ministry says, "The president made no mention of the return of two islands."

Nevertheless, according to the same source, Soviet Ambassador to Japan Lyudvig Chizhov, who was present at the talks, averted the contents of the remarks made by the president. Ambassador Chizhov reportedly explained the remarks in question in a briefing he gave to staffers of the Soviet Embassy in Tokyo after returning to his post.

The source added it is possible to construe the presidential remarks as: 1) a clear statement that he has no intention of striving for concrete progress in the territorial issue when he visits Japan; and, 2) a mixed statement aimed at increasing the value of the question as a Japan card in case the Soviet Union makes a certain concession, such as "the return of two islands," during his visit to Japan by emphasizing a zero reply in advance.

'Great Efforts' Needed During Gorbachev Visit

OW2701114791 Tokyo MAINICHI DAILY NEWS in English 26 Jan 91 p 2—FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

[Editorial: "Gorbachev's Forthcoming Visit"]

[Text] Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, during his recent meeting with Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama in Moscow, proposed that he begin his four-day visit to Japan on April 16, to which Nakayama agreed. When realized, this will be the first visit to Japan by a Soviet leader and will be of great significance for Japanese diplomacy and Soviet-Japanese relations. We look forward to his visit.

The Gorbachev administration is facing great difficulties at present with perestroyka having reached an impasse and ethnic problems mounting in intensity, including the situation in the Baltic states. In addition to the resignation of former Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, several other government leaders of the reformist camp have quit, and a weakening of the administration and a re-emergence of conservatives and the military has been reported. The military crackdown in Lithuania and Latvia, which shocked the world, is probably not unrelated with the change taking place in the foundation of the Gorbachev system.

The confusion within the Soviet Union has made it uncertain as to whether the Soviet-U.S. meeting for signing the agreement on the START (Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty) can take place. It has also cast a shadow over Gorbachev's visit to Japan.

Taking the visit of Gorbachev as an ideal opportunity, the government has seen an opening to settle the Northern Territories problem. A forward step was also sought during Nakayama's talks with Gorbachev, but the Soviet leader adhered to a strong Soviet attitude on the issue, saying that "this is not a problem that can be settle quickly." The current situation in the Soviet Union only adds to the pessimistic view felt in some quarters.

The improvement of Soviet-Japanese relations is not limited, of course, to the problem of the Northern Territories. Importance is attached also from a global viewpoint seeking stability in the Asia- Pacific region. Needless to say, stability in the Soviet Union itself is of great importance to the stability of the post-cold war world.

It was from such recognition that the U.S. European countries and Japan embarked on a program of economic aid to the Soviet Union. The military suppression carried out in the Baltic states, however, runs contrary to democratization, which is a pillar of perestroyka. As a result, several countries have restudied their policy of providing the Soviet Union with aid.

President Gorbachev has denied personal responsibility for the military crackdowns that have taken place. He has emphasized that there is no change in his past policy toward the Baltic states. Nevertheless, there is a strong possibility that despite critical world opinion, Gorbachev, who has shifted the foundation of his administration toward the conservatives and the military, might toughen his stance toward ethnic movements such as those in the Baltic states. Because of this, the European Community (EC) has decided to postpone its food and technological aid to the Soviet Union. The U.S. Senate has also resolved to halt similar aid.

Japan, which has decided on a grant of 1 billion yen in food and medical supplies and a loan of 100 million dollar from the Export- Import Bank, is taking a cautious attitude in the belief that Gorbachev's forthcoming visit will be a favorable opportunity to improve Soviet-Japanese relations, including dealing with the Northern Territories problem.

Nevertheless, the domestic confusion in the Soviet Union may affect Japanese-Soviet negotiations. Even if, from a humanitarian standpoint, the supply of food and medical aid is not restudied, full-scale economic aid, both from the government and private sector, may be difficult. With the domestic and foreign environment in the state that it is, great efforts are needed by both governments in order to make President Gorbachev's visit to Japan a success.

Impact of Baltic Crisis on Islands Issue Viewed

OW2301120691 Tokyo THE JAPAN ECONOMIC JOURNAL in English 26 Jan 91 pp 1, 6—FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

[By staff writer Akihiro Tamiya: "Lithuania Crackdown Raises Doubt on North Isles Issue"]

[Text] While the Western world analyzes the Soviet crackdown on Lithuania mainly in terms of how it will affect Moscow's movement toward democracy, many Japanese are pondering another issue, as well.

Much of the talk here has focused on how the crackdown will affect Tokyo's chances of regaining control over four islands occupied by the Russians since 1945.

In the eyes of many, 1991 was to be the year of rapproachement between Japan and the Soviet Union, when President Mikhail Gorbachev would visit Tokyo, possibly to make concessions on the Northern Territories off Hokkaido. Now, Japanese academics, politicians and businessmen are divided in their assessment of the impact the latest turmoil in the USSR will have on that and other bilateral issues.

Professor Hiroshi Kimura of Hokkaido University is one analyst who sees a silver lining in the cloud of repression. "While the U.S. and Western Europe tend to react very strongly to human rights isues, Japanese foreign policy has been less susceptible to them," he says. "Although I feel sympathy for Lithuanians, the Kremlin's suppression of nationalism might turn out to be kamikaze (providential wind) for Japan's diplomacy with Moscow." The professor, an expert on Japan-Soviet relations, says there is a "strong probability" that the U.S. and Europe will reverse their aid policies toward the Soviet Union. "Cuts and cancellation of U.S. and European promises of aid could enhance Japan's bargaining position to get the Northern Territories back (in exchange for economic assistance)."

The different stance between Japan and the West was highlighted at the Houston summit of seven industrialized countries last July, when Tokyo declared that large-scale economic assistance to the USSR must be preceded by the return of the Northern Territories. Since then, the Japanese Foreign Ministry has been criticized for its reluctance to support Gorbachev. So much so that Japanese politicians and critics had voiced concern that the ministry's policy would isolate Japan from other industrialized countries.

Now, with Gorbachev's image as a liberal reformer fading away, the feeling is that the ministry may be spared that criticism. In addition, a possible reversal of Gorbachev's popularity in the U.S. and Western Europe may mean that the Kremlin will feel a more pressing need to strike a deal in the territorial talks with Japan, Kimura says.

A Foreign Ministry official involved in those talks says: "Since the Soviets annexed the Baltic states 50 years ago, the U.S. and some European countries have explicitly stated that they do not recognize the annexation. The Japanese Government has never echoed that position. Implicitly, we have regarded the Baltics and other republics as part of the Soviet Union." The official suggests that, depending on Moscow's policy on the Northern Territories, Japan's relations with the Soviets could improve even in the wake of the military suppression of the independent-minded republics.

Nonetheless, most government officials and scholars seem to think that the Kremlin's reactionary moves don't bode well for an improvement in Japan-Soviet relations, even if human rights are not their major concern.

Kenichi Ito, president of the Japan Forum on International Relations, says: "Communist Party conservatives, the KGB and military officers, who have planned and carried out the crackdown, are holding onto the idea of greater Russia. As long as proponents of such an idea are in power, there is little possibility that Moscow will make territorial concessions."

Ito says he expects the repression of the Baltics to spread throughout the Soviet Union and last six months to a year. And, he adds, "There is a possibility that Gorbachev (who is scheduled to visit Tokyo in April) might not come to Japan because of the difficulty in striking a deal on the four islands."

Meanwhile, Sadao Nagaoka, director of the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe Office at the Ministry of International Trade and Industry says: "The policy of suppressing freely elected governments (in Lithuania and other republics) is just not viable in the long run. The military crackdown will heighten (Japanese businessmen's) skepticism about Soviet economic reform and political stability, making long-term business commitments more difficult."

An official at Keidanren, Japan's most influential business organization, says Japan should act in concert with Washington. "There is a possibility that the U.S. Congress might go as far as seeking the imposition of sanctions against the Soviets," he said. "After all, our trade with the Soviets accounts for only 1 percent of our total trade volume, while that with the U.S. accounts for more than 30 percent. In addition, the alliance with the U.S. is vitally important to Japanese security." Moreover, he said, any efforts to do more business with the Soviet Union might make Japan a target of U.S. criticism, particularly if the Gulf war drags on.

Paper Condemns Soviet 'Suppression' in Baltics

OW2201133291 Tokyo JPS in English 0953 GMT 22 Jan 91—FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

[Text] Tokyo Jan 22 JPS—On the night of January 20, Soviet special forces occupied the Latvia Republic's Interior Ministry in the capital, Riga, by a gunbattle assault. According to a Latvian radio broadcast, more than ten people were killed or injured. AKAHATA on January 22 carried an editorial severely criticizing the Soviet Union. It says:

This followed the Soviet paratroopers' January 11 attack on Lithuania, one of the three Baltic republics. This is a consistent attempt at military suppression of the Baltic republics which are demanding independence from the Soviet Union, clamping down on their demands. The Japanese Communist Party strongly condemns this action of the Soviet Government.

Using Turmoil of Gulf War

The thing to be pointed out is that the Soviet leaders, including President Gorbachev, have repeated claptrap on the Baltic states demands and movement for independence, as well as in economic questions and other matters, making no fundamental change on its policies of big-power-chauvinism and hegemonism on the national question. They have finally conducted armed repression, criticizing those who are demanding independence as "separatists" and "nationalists".

Inside the Soviet Union, criticism is spreading: The Soviet national news agency, TASS, criticized the suppression in the Baltic republics as "a grave violation of law", and the largest- subscription daily paper in the Soviet Union, KOMSOMOLISKAYA PRAVDA, carried an article demanding a decision to concede independence to the Baltic republics. Moreover, celebrities including those close to the president made a denunciation in their joint names. On January 20, there was a large-scale march in Moscow, protesting at the suppression and demanding the "resignation of President Gorbachev".

It can be said that while the attention of the world was on the Gulf war that originated from the Iraq issue, this series of armed suppressions against the Baltic republics were carried out, using the Gulf war turmoil as cover.

The Soviet Union's invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968 was in the midst of the U.S. war of aggression in Indochina. The invasion of Afghanistan in 1979 was in the period of heightening tension between the U.S. and Iran.

What must not be overlooked is that the U.S. and other countries are not showing such severe attitude against the Soviet Union as they did at the time of the Soviet aggression against Czechoslovakia and Afghanistan. It is reported that "the White House decided against a strong initial reaction to the Soviet crackdown in the Baltic republics because it did not want to disrupt the coalition against Iraq, according to U.S. officials." (INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE, January 16)

As Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh said "vital interests oblige us to oppose Iraqi aggression," the Soviet Union supports the U.S. military attack against Iraq from the position of promoting U.S.-Soviet collaboration.

On this point, although the Japanese Government expressed "concern" about the repression by the Soviet authorities in Latvia, it did not resolutely protest at Soviet infringement of the right of nations to self-determination and human rights, and Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama made his planned visit to the Soviet Union on January 21. The Japanese Government's policy being in line with the U.S. should be severely questioned.

The outrage of the Soviet leadership consitutes trampling on the principles of scientific socialism.

To defend the right of nations to self-determination is one of fundamental principles of scientific socialsim, as Lenin who led the newborn Soviet Government emphasized and he strictly defended the freedom of nations to secede and to become independent from the Soviet Union.

Based on this position, the Japanese Communist Party on January 12 sent a telegram to President Gorbachev, demanding that the Soviet leadership should stop at once its armed intervention in Lithuania, and on January 14 issued a Central Committee statement entitled "We Condemn the Use of Force Against Lithuania by the Soviet Government." It says: "The JCP strongly demands an immediate halt to the use of force and all such attempts, the withdrawal of Soviet troops from the Batlic republics, and respect for the Baltic republics people's demand for independence. The JCP also demands that the Soviet Union, adopting this standpoint, should make every effort to set in motion peaceful negotiations towards a proper settlement of these questions."

The JCP again condemns the Soviet troops for their armed crackdown in Latvia, and demands that the Soviet leadership immediately stop all repression, withdraws troops from the Baltic states and makes efforts for a peaceful settlement of the issue, respecting the right of nations to self-determination.

Editor Says Gorbachev To Ward Off 'Conservatism'

OW2601074091 Tokyo THE JAPAN TIMES in English 25 Jan 91 p 5—FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

[Text] Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev most likely will move to ward off the surge of conservatism being spearheaded by the entrenched bureaucracy and the military-industrial complex, a Soviet reformist editor said Wednesday.

"I believe that he will do something to change the situation and take power from those conservative leaders," said Vitali Korotich, editor in chief of the liberal weekly publication OGONEK.

"If not, it will provoke such a powerful people's movement that it will be dangerous for our entire country and maybe for all the world," Korotich said in a meeting with reporters at the Japan National Press Club.

Korotich, who is also a parliamentarian in the Congress of People's Deputies, was noncommital on the prospects for Gorbachev's success in the power struggle, but said it could help if a broad spectrum of liberal forces in the country band together in a movement against dictatorship. "I think it will be possible to fix and show this movement in the beginning of February," he said.

Korotich called on Gorbachev to "show that he is president and a powerful leader." "He's under permanent strong attack from the left and from the right... and he's trying to balance between those poles," he explained.

Gorbachev, he said, is constantly counting the forces to his left. "Trying to be in the center, he must move right all the time because the left wing is becoming shorter and shorter," the editor said. But Korotich regretted that Gorbachev has tilted "too far" to the right, surrounding himself with "old-style" bureaucrats after having been deserted by his liberal aides.

Tokyo To Continue Humanitarian Aid to USSR

OW2501012491 Tokyo JIJI in English 1441 GMT 24 Jan 91—FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 24 (JIJI PRESS)—Japan will continue medical and other humanitarian aid to the Soviet Union unless circumstances in the Baltic republics worsen further, a ranking Foreign Ministry official said Thursday.

The Soviet Union came under harsh international criticism following the Soviet Army's crackdown on independence movements in Lithuania and Latvia on Jan. 13 and 22.

The Soviet people appreciate medical aid now being given to victims of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant accident in the Ukraine in April 1986, as well as the supply of medicines, the official noted.

This kind of assistance helps deepen the Soviets' understanding of Japan and could contribute to the early settlement of the bilateral territorial dispute involving four northwestern Pacific islands, the official indicated.

USSR Supports 'Nuclear Free Zone' in Korea

OW1301020491 Tokyo SANKEI SHIMBUN in Japanese 11 Jan 91 Morning Edition p 6—FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

[Text] Regarding the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) inspection of North Korean nuclear facilities, a Soviet diplomatic source in Tokyo said on 10 January that "the entire Korean peninsula should be turned into a nuclear free zone, and the Soviet Union is ready to support it." Thus, he disclosed the fact that the Soviet Government is groping for a concept to make the Korean peninsula a nuclear free zone.

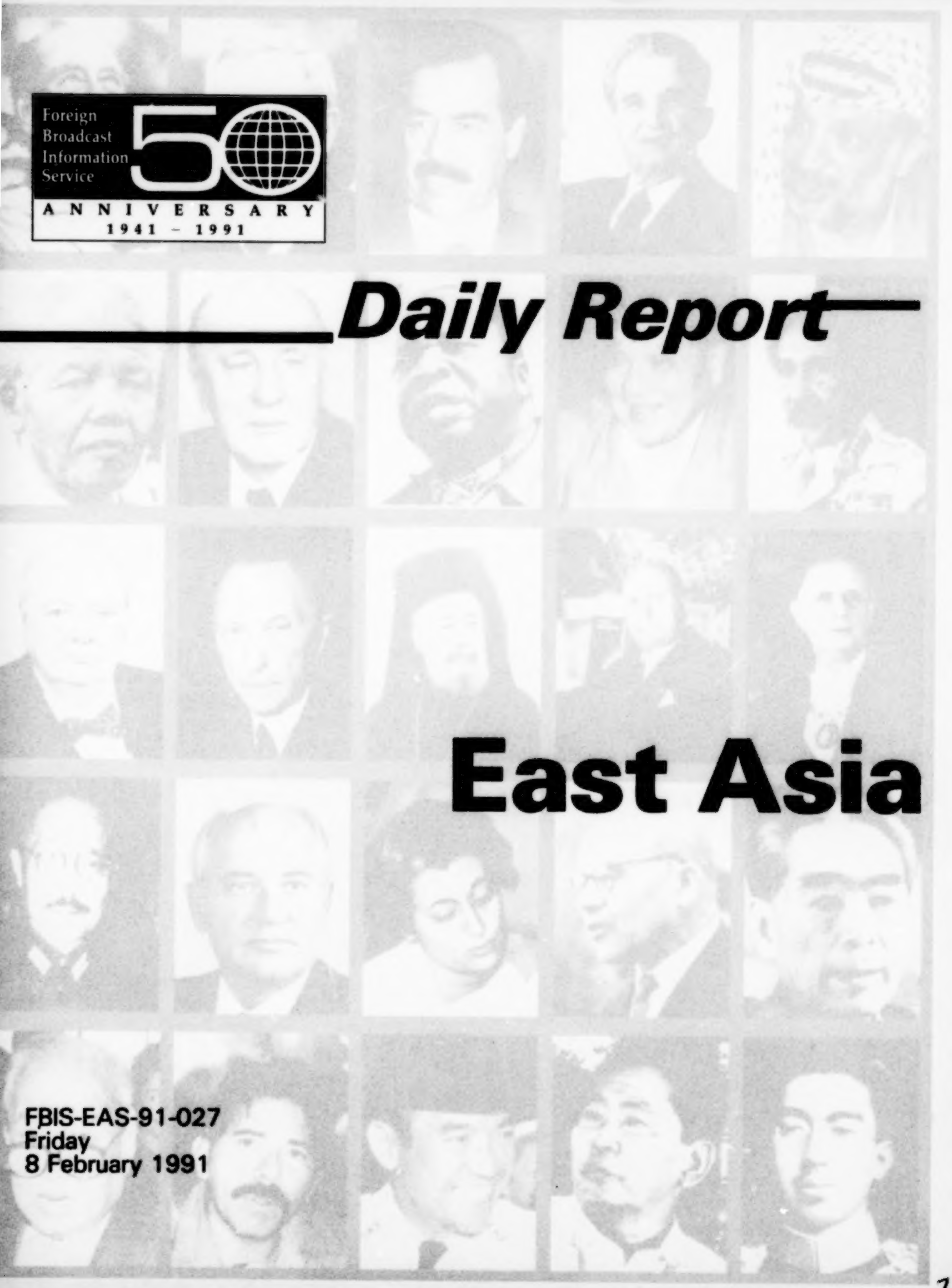
The issue of inspecting North Korean nuclear facilities will be one of the focal points at offical Japanese-North Korean negotiations for normalizing diplomatic relations. The negotiations are scheduled to start in late January. At Japanese-South Korean summit talks held on 9 January, Prime Minister Kaifu stated his view that the issue of inspecting North Korean nuclear facilities will be discussed at official Japanese-North Korean negotiations.

On the inspection, the same source also stated: "Management by the IAEA is desirable. However, the DPRK has the right to believe that consideration should be given to the possibility of inspecting the South also." Thus, he stressed that the same measure should be simultaneously taken on nuclear weapons, which U.S. forces in South Korea possibly possess. Moreover, the same source stated that "the Soviet Union will fulfill its duties of realizing the concept if an international guarantee is needed." Thus, he indicated a positive stance.

Roundtable Discusses Japanese-Soviet Relations

OW2201145191 Tokyo ASAHI SHIMBUN in Japanese 19 Jan 91 Morning Edition p 16—FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

["Summary" of Japanese-Soviet roundtable talks on the theme of "The New Era of Asia and Japanese-Soviet Relations," held in Moscow on 15 January under the cosponsorship of ASAHI SHIMBUN and PRAVDA; participants from Japan were Yohei Kono, chairman of the Liberal Democratic Party Foreign Affairs Research Committee; Nobuo Matsunaga, Foreign Ministry adviser; Nobuo Shimotomai, Hosei University professor; and Michisada Hirose, ASAHI SHIMBUN's acting chief editorial writer; Soviet participants were Ivan Frolov, PRAVDA chief editor; Aleksandr Yakovlev, member of the Soviet Congress of People's Deputies and former member of the Presidential Council; Aleksandr Panov, chief of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's Pacific Ocean and Southeast Asian Countries Administration; Konstantin Sarkisov, deputy director of the



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Japan

Iraqi Envoy Guarantees Safety for Civilian Planes

OW0802113491 Tokyo KYODO in English 1101 GMT 8 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 8 KYODO—Iraqi Ambassador Rashid al-Rifa'i on Thursday guaranteed safe passage for Japanese civilian aircraft evacuating refugees from the Persian Gulf war, but said Baghdad can give no guarantee that military aircraft will not be subject to attack.

"We do advise the Japanese side...that if they want to carry on any humanitarian campaign to save those refugees from the area, it should be done completely by civilian means," Al-Rifa'i said in an interview with KYODO NEWS SERVICE. "Because then there is a guarantee that civilian planes will not be attacked by anybody," added the envoy, who spoke while seated under a large portrait of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

Al-Rifa'i was commenting on the Japanese Government's plan to dispatch Air Self-Defense Force transport planes to the Middle East to participate in refugee evacuation operations. Any military plane entering a "military operational theater," the ambassador warned, "is liable to be attacked."

"Nobody can guarantee that it is not going to be attacked," he said. "If it is not attacked by Iraq it might be attacked by somebody else because it's a military plane."

Al-Rifa'i did not clarify whether Iraq's view of the scope of the operational theater encompasses the Jordanian capital of Amman, where Japan aims to send the planes.

Denying his warning was meant as a threat to Japan, he said, "We are not threatening anybody, but as you know, the feelings (of the people) in the area are boiling... so we don't know what happens." Al-Rifa'i also pointed out that the overseas dispatch of Japanese military aircraft could fuel fears of resurgent Japanese militarism. "It could be taken as a prelude for further military intervention in the world and also in your area here," he said.

Touching on Japan's monetary contributions to the U.S.-led multinational forces, 2 billion dollars so far and another 9 billion dollars possibly forthcoming, al-Rifa'i said it has brought Iraqi-Japanese relations to the brink of collapse, with inevitable long-term ramifications. "We regret that these relations have been affected, collapsed almost, because of the Japanese policy of supporting the Americans and their allies in the area and paying them for the weapons," he said.

Al-Rifa'i said Japan has "a certain percentage of responsibility" for what he said were some 1,000 Iraqi civilians killed, thousands more injured, and the destruction of homes, hospitals, schools, mosques, museums, and civilian factories. "They are sharing in the destruction of Iraq and the shedding of the blood of the Iraqis," he charged.

While the envoy declined to say relations with Japan have reached a point of no return, he cautioned that Arabs and Muslims "keep things in our heart—those who hurt us we cannot forget." Al-Rifa'i said it is "difficult to imagine" a role for Japan in the Middle East in the aftermath of the war, owing to its having sided with those he accused of aiming at the destruction of Iraq.

Asked if Iraq will break diplomatic relations with Japan as it has done with the major members of the multinational forces, Al- Rifa'i said Iraq wants to keep links "as long as there is a chance to develop relations." He noted that Japan is not a "direct partner" to forces aligned against his country on the battlefield.

Questioned on rumors of a possible expulsion of Iraqi diplomats from Japan, Al-Rifa'i said, "Whenever any government asks us to leave, our bags are ready, we'll put them on a plane and go back."

Yamaguchi: SDF Planes Needed for Gulf Evacuation

OW0702162391 Tokyo KYODO in English 1408 GMT 7 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 7 (KYODO)—A senior member of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) welcomed Thursday private citizens' efforts to charter aircraft to evacuate refugees from the Middle East, but said it could not replace the government plan to dispatch military transport planes.

"If the groups are unable to keep up with demand, then Japan will be criticized," said Toshio Yamaguchi, just returned from the Middle East where his LDP delegation obtained approval for the military aircraft plan from Jordan, Egypt and Syria. He suggested at a news conference that Japan might also consider contracting planes from Jordanian and Egyptian airlines, but that this would not be a substitute for the Air Self-Defense Force (ASDF) planes. The military planes are needed to fly to dangerous zones and places where Japanese commercial airlines are unwilling to go, he said.

Private groups and citizens have launched fund-raising campaigns to charter planes for evacuation to demonstrate that it is unnecessary to dispatch military planes. Many opposed to the dispatch of ASDF aircraft fear the move could be a precedent for future dispatches on military missions.

The first plane chartered by citizens, a Royal Jordanian jetliner, arrived in Cairo from Jordan on Wednesday with 143 Yemeni refugees on board.

Yamaguchi, who returned to Tokyo earlier in the day, said he planned to advise the government to invite the citizens to work with it in contributing to evacuation efforts. During his tour of Egypt, Jordan and Syria, Yamaguchi said that leaders there sought Japan's support after the war in resolving the Palestinian issue.

"They were very interested to know our views on the new order in the Middle East after the war," he said.

Yamaguchi and his delegation met with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, Jordanian Crown Prince Hassan, and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad during their 13-day mission. Yamaguchi said that the leaders also expressed interest in Japan's cooperation in cleaning up the oil spills which have dumped some 11 million barrels of oil into the Gulf.

In separate meetings with Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and LDP Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa on Thursday, Yamaguchi said he suggested the government and party establish joint teams to respond to the refugee relief efforts and oil pollution.

Iraq Blasts 'Hypocritical' Gulf Aid Package

OW0802002491 Tokyo KYODO in English 2302 GMT 7 Feb 91

[Text] Cairo, Feb. 7 KYODO—Iraq blasted Japan on Thursday for assisting in the "murder and destruction" of its people, calling Tokyo's latest aid package for the U.S.-led coalition in the Persian Gulf war hypocritical. It was apparently the sharpest reaction from Baghdad to Tokyo's role in the war since it started January 17.

In a statement carried by the Iraqi News Agency [INA], Baghdad said the 28-nation allied forces had killed children, women and elderly people, knocked down residential buildings, and bombed mosques, churches and bridges. The statement quoted a Foreign Ministry spokesman as saying the allies also attacked "several civilian installations which had been built by Japanese firms," said the INA report monitored in Cairo.

Any financial contribution to coalition war efforts "cannot but be a direct and deliberate contribution to the process of murder and destruction against the Iraqi people," the spokesman said. "Iraq rejects this hypocritical interpretation by the Government of Japan, and we call upon the peace-loving Japanese people to reject it resolutely," he said.

The spokesman was referring to a 9 billion dollar contribution Japan pledged two weeks ago to help the allied forces free Kuwait from Iraq's six-month occupation.

Japan already had contributed 2 billion dollars to the alliance and pledged another 2 billion dollars to aid countries most affected by the Gulf crisis.

Iraq said Wednesday it is cutting diplomatic relations with the United States and five of its major allies in the coalition. Japan, which is not a member of the allied forces, was not among them.

The government of Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu faces strong objections to the new aid package from opposition parties, which accuse him of trying to pave the way for Japan to use force in settling international conflicts. Japan's war-renouncing Constitution bans any use of military force in international disputes.

The dispute focuses on a plan to use Japanese military aircraft to evacuate refugees fleeing the war and on how the 9 billion dollars is to be spent.

Kaifu told parliament Wednesday the money will be used for noncombat purposes such as transportation.

The U.S. State Department said Monday Japan's contribution will be used for logistical support of U.S. troops.

Hashimoto Critical of Official's Gulf Aid Remarks

OW0802041891 Tokyo KYODO in English 0348 GMT 8 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 8 KYODO—Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto on Friday lashed out at remarks made by a high-ranking Foreign Ministry official indicating Japan would give further aid to the U.S.-led multinational forces fighting Iraq, government officials said.

At a regular cabinet meeting Friday morning, Hashimoto was quoted as saying the remarks are embarrassing and had an adverse effect on the ongoing negotiations in the Diet over the 9 billion dollars additional assistance pledged last month.

Hashimoto criticized the Foreign Ministry official who reportedly said Thursday Japan will consider additional aid to the Gulf forces if the war drags on longer than expected. On January 25, Japan pledged to provide 9 billion dollars in extra aid to the forces, on top of the 2 billion dollars already promised. The government officials said Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu strongly cautioned cabinet members to refrain from making irresponsible remarks about the issue.

As a sign of an apparent escalating rift between the finance and foreign ministries, Hashimoto also faulted the Foreign Ministry for its slow handling of relief aid to Pakistan, which was hit by a severe earthquake last week. Speaking at a press conference after the cabinet meeting, Hashimoto reinforced his criticism about the controversial remarks. "I wonder how he could say such a thing when it is most important for us to strive for an early resolution of the war," he said.

Views Possible Supplementary Budget

OW0702141591 Tokyo KYODO in English 1350 GMT 7 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 7 KYODO—Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto indicated Thursday that part of Japan's extra 9 billion dollar contribution to U.S.-led forces in the Gulf may be funded by a Fiscal 1991 supplementary budget.

Speaking at a lower house Budget Committee session, Hashimoto said the money saved after cutting Fiscal 1991 expenditures must be set aside to help finance the Gulf contribution under a supplementary budget. But

Hashimoto denied any intention of curtailing spending in the Fiscal 1990 budget further to save money for the 9 billion dollar package, pledged last month in addition to 2 billion dollars already paid to support the multinational forces.

"The government has made efforts to slash spending (under the Fiscal 1990 budget) so far, and has already saved nearly 50 percent more than the money saved a year before," Hashimoto said in response to a question by an opposition interpellator.

Among other remarks made by government officials at the committee, Defense Agency Director General Yukihiko Ikeda said that Self-Defense Force [SDF] personnel could carry gas masks when they go to the Gulf region to transport refugees home. Ikeda said he does not think it open to question that SDF personnel should carry gas masks to protect themselves from possible chemical attacks. But he added that it depends on consultations with the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) to decide whether to do so, citing the government-managed ban on exports of military goods. Regulations on such exports fall under the jurisdiction of MITI.

Tomio Tsutsumi, director general of MITI's International Trade Administration Bureau, told the Budget Committee that MITI has given the greenlight three times so far to allow civilians to carry gas masks on condition that they manage them carefully.

Foreign Ministry Studying Post-Gulf War Agenda

OW0702163091 Tokyo KYODO in English 1456 GMT 7 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 7 (KYODO)—The Foreign Ministry is currently undertaking a study of what Japan should do to facilitate peace and stability in the Middle East in the aftermath of the war in the Persian Gulf, a top ministry official said Thursday.

But the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said it would be premature for Japan to openly espouse its concepts of the postwar period while the war is still raging. He said Japan must be careful about the timing of its initiatives because allied forces are shedding blood on the battlefield while the Japanese Government has limited its contribution to financial support.

Outlining Japan's vision after peace comes to the Middle East, the official said the first broad issue to be tackled would be the rehabilitation of the war-scarred region, with Kuwait as the top priority, followed by Iraq.

Redressing the destabilizing economic disparities between wealthy Arab states and economically disadvantaged ones should subsequently be tackled, he said. He predicted that Japan can play a major role here through its economic power.

The official cited regional security guarantees as the second broad issue to be addressed. He said Japan's input in this respect would be relatively minimal as it has not contributed militarily to the multinational forces but that Japan's pacifist policy would enable it to urge the non- proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and restraints on weapons exports.

The third issue, where Japan's input would also be overshadowed by more closely concerned countries, would be the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian question, the official said. He said Japan would adhere to its basic position in promoting a solution to the problems.

Japan supports the right of the Palestinians to form a state of their own in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, but also calls for the recognition by Israel's Arab neighbors of the Jewish state's right to exist within secure borders.

Okinawa Police Continue Terrorists' Alert

OW0802031291 Naha Radio NHK in Japanese 2210 GMT 7 Feb 91

[Text] As the Gulf war has taken on the appearance of a prolonged war, the police are currently on alert to prevent terrorist and other actions in Okinawa Prefecture, which has many U.S. bases. Under such circumstances, another reinforcing unit consisting of 150 riot police officers will arrive from mainland Japan today.

Since many U.S. military bases—including Kadena Air Base, the largest military base in the Far East—exist on the island, radicals may possibly launch terrorist actions on Okinawa. To cope with the situation, a reinforcing unit with a total of 300 police officers was dispatched from the Kyushu district on 19 and 23 January.

Since this unit completed its assignment on Okinawa yesterday and is scheduled to leave for Kyushu on 11 February, a replacement of 150 police officers with 20 patrol cars will arrive on Okinawa from the Shikoku District by a ferry boat this evening. Moreover, an additional 150 police officers from the Chugoku district will arrive here tomorrow. With 300-man strong reinforcing unit, the police will continue to engage in maintaining security in the vicinity of the bases.

Kaifu Stresses 'No Change' in Rice Policy

OW0802045991 Tokyo KYODO in English 0439 GMT 9 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 8 KYODO—Despite growing international criticism over Japan's refusal to open its highly protected rice market, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries Motoji Kondo said Friday that Japan will maintain that rice imports would threaten food supplies, the "food security" line.

Speaking at a House of Representatives Budget Committee session, Kondo said he will press Arthur Dunkel, director general of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), to consider the country's "food security"

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line when he drafts a "platform" for resuming the derailed Uruguay Round of world trade talks.

The GATT-sponsored trade negotiations, aimed at reshaping world commerce into the next century, were adjourned after a near collapse in the Brussels ministerial meeting in early December due to a failure by the European Community (EC) to cut trade-distorting farm subsidies.

Bolstering Kondo's remarks, Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu stressed that there will be no change in Japan's costly policy of subsidizing domestic rice farmers, regarding farm trade negotiations.

Tokyo Ready To Discuss Liberalization of Imports

OW0702045291 Tokyo KYODO in English 0429 GMT 7 Feb 91

[Text] Geneva, Feb. 6 KYODO—Japan said Wednesday it is ready for separate talks with the United States on Washington's request that Japan liberalize imports of two farm items—starch and milk products, Japanese officials said.

Japanese delegates expressed their readiness to address the issue with the U.S. during a council meeting of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) in Geneva, they said.

In February 1988, GATT, acting on a U.S. complaint against Tokyo, recommended that Japan liberalize import regulations on 10 farm items. Japan agreed to do so on eight of the items in April 1990.

During Wednesday's GATT meeting, the United States urged Japan to liberalize the remaining two farm items, but Tokyo avoided agreeing to quick liberalization and told the council instead it is ready to have separate talks with Washington, the officials said.

They said Japan declined to reply promptly to the issue on the grounds that GATT Article XI (ii)(c), which allows import restrictions on some farm products in excessive supply, is still under negotiation in the GATT Uruguay Round of Multilateral Talks.

Government To Extend 'Emergency' Aid to Sakhalin

OW0702154891 Tokyo KYODO in English 1409 GMT 7 Feb 91

[Text] Osaka, Feb. 7 (KYODO)—The Japanese pharmaceutical industry will extend emergency medical aid of 10 million yen to the Soviet island of Sakhalin, industry sources said Thursday.

The aid in kind, originally requested by the Soviet Embassy in Japan, will be supplied by the Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association of Tokyo and the Osaka Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association, the sources said.

A bipartisan Diet group is expected to visit Sakhalin next Monday to deliver such supplies as agents to promote cerebral metabolism and drugs for chronic liver disease.

Shipping Talks With USSR End, Ports Opened

OW0702160091 Tokyo KYODO in English 1412 GMT 7 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 7 (KYODO)—Japan and the Soviet Union on Thursday ended two days of shipping talks in Tokyo with a Soviet announcement that two Siberian ports, Vanino, in the maritime province and Korsakov, Sakhalin's largest port, have been opened to international trade.

It was also agreed that Japanese and Soviet shipping companies will set up a working group to work out details of plans for regular shipping services between Japanese ports and the two Siberian ports, including firms to operate the services and definite service routes. The working group is expected to hold its first meeting in a few months, at the earliest.

Two Japanese shipping groups want to start regular services between Japan and the two Siberian ports. Vanino is the terminal for one of the two Siberian railway lines. One group is Japan Nakhodka Line, a consortium made up of Navix line, Kawasaki Kisen Kaisha, and Iino Kaiun Kaisha, which is now operating a cargo service between Japanese ports and two Siberian ports, Nakhodka and Vostochnyy. The other group, Nippon Yusen K.K., Mitsui O.S.K. Lines and Higashi Nihon Ferry, plans a car ferry service.

Two Soviet shipping companies, Far Eastern Shipping Co. and Sakhalin Shipping Co., also want to start regular shipping services to Japanese ports.

Nicaraguan President To Seek Aid, Investment

OW0802061791 Tokyo KYODO in English 0303 GMT 8 Feb 91

[By Shiro Yoneyama]

[Text] Washington, Feb. 7 KYODO—President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro of Nicaragua will visit Japan next week to seek financial aid and investment from the world's largest donor country, her top adviser said Thursday.

Antonio Lacayo, Nicaragua's minister of the presidency, said in Washington Chamorro is counting on a bigger financial aid package from Japan than the 50 million dollars offered by the United States.

The Persian Gulf war has halted oil shipments from East Europe, so the government has to buy half its oil on the world markets, further aggravating the teetering Nicaraguan economy, Lacayo said. The Soviet Union supplies the remaining half of the country's oil.

Lacayo said the new democracy needs economic assistance "so that Nicaragua can begin reconstructing its economy after years of war and disruptions in life."

Chamorro will meet Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu in Tokyo on Monday evening, and Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko will host a luncheon for her on Tuesday. Lacayo, her de facto prime minister, said in a meeting with KYODO News Service and two other Japanese news organizations, "we simply want to put our nation back to where it should be.

"The most important help we can get from the Japanese Government this time is a contribution to help Nicaragua clean the arrears we have with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the World Bank," he said.

The unpaid debts total 350 million dollars, including 260 million dollars to the World Bank. The United States has offered 50 million dollars for Nicaragua's debt cleanup effort. "We would like more (than 50 million dollars) really, because we think Japan is now the most important donor in the international community," Lacayo said. "We want to bring Japanese entrepreneurs and Japanese talent to help Nicaragua."

Lacayo said his government expects Japan, Germany, the Nordic countries, Spain, Italy, and Canada to contribute the remaining 300 million dollars. "It's bit difficult for Japan to come up with a firm reply next week because the Japanese are probably going to wait to have some green light from the International Monetary Fund (IMF)," he said. "The IMF won't be in a position to give such a green light until sometime next month."

The IDB and the World Bank will invite Japan, the U.S. and other donor countries to a meeting in Washington on March 25 to discuss aid to Nicaragua, which held its first free elections a year ago.

The debts in arrears represent only a tiny portion of Nicaragua's foreign debt of 10 to 11 billion dollars, making the country the largest per capita foreign debtor in the world.

Lacayo noted that Nicaragua has successfully negotiated debt payment pacts with Mexico and Venezuela. "Japanese investors could participate in the privatization effort," he said. Metals, cement, sugar mills, plastic forming and the dairy industry are among the areas where Japanese and foreign investors are welcome, he said.

During Chamorro's Tokyo visit, she will discuss a second canal project with Japanese Government and business leaders, Lacayo said. "This is a topic of interest to Nicaragua. We know we have a real possibility for a profitable canal," Lacayo said. "Nicaragua is pleased to begin conversations about this idea."

Since Monday, Lacayo has met with Vice President Dan Quayle, senior State Department officials and representatives of the World Bank, IDB, IMF and think tanks. Lacayo said Nicaragua favors free trade arrangements with the U.S., Canada, Mexico, and other countries in the region because they "tend to lower tariffs on Central American products." He will meet Secretary of State James Baker and Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady on Friday. Lacayo said Chamorro will visit Czechoslovakia and Germany after her Japan trip.

ROK Asks Government To 'Correct' Trade Surplus

OW0802102591 Tokyo KYODO in English 0944 GMT 8 Feb 91

[Text] Fukuoka, Feb. 8 KYODO—The Korea Chamber of Commerce and Industry called on Japan on Friday to correct its big trade surplus with South Korea, saying it was vital to improving mutual understanding between the two countries.

Japan posted a 5.58 billion U.S. dollar trade surplus with South Korea in the first 11 months of last year.

The chamber also asked its Japanese counterpart for technological transfers and other forms of industrial cooperation during a high-level meeting between the two organizations.

The Japanese delegation was led by Rokuro Ishikawa, chairman of the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and the Korean side by Kim Sang-ha, president of the Korean chamber.

The meeting, which focused on four topics, including the South Korean economy, was the fifth between the two chambers.

The Japanese delegation said it wants South Korea to study the distinctive features of the Japanese market and to point out its strong points.

Regarding South Korea's request for more technological cooperation, the Japanese side said the two nations must discuss in more depth the type of aid that Japan can and should provide.

Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to further promote mutual exchanges between the two countries.

The next conference between the two groups will be held sometime in February or March of next year, at a venue yet to be decided.

North Korea

Coverage of Reported Coup Attempt in Pyongyang

'Antirevolutionary Plot' Cited

OW0702154791 Tokyo KYODO in English 1247 GMT 7 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 7 (KYODO)—North Korea has crushed an antirevolutionary plot within the ruling

Workers' Party seeking to "confuse the blood lineage" in the party leadership, Radio Pyongyang reported Thursday.

The radio station, monitored in Tokyo, said in a commentary that rebellious elements within the party were all purged under the leadership of Kim Chong-il, the eldest son and heir apparent of North Korean President Kim Il-song.

The purge has "given complete assurance to the purity of blood lineage" in the party, the broadcast said.

The radio said the purge has wiped out what it calls "unorthodox ideological tendencies" within the party and crushed the antiparty plot launched by "antiparty, antirevolutionary elements and antiparty revisionists."

The radio did not mention the nature of the plot or the principals involved.

Paris Envoy Voices Disbelief

AU0702143791 Paris AFP in English 1428 GMT 7 Feb 91

[Excerpts] Paris, Feb 7 (AFP)—A North Korean envoy here expressed disbelief Thursday at press reports that Pyongyang crushed an anti-revolutionary plot within the ruling Workers' Party. [passage omitted]

Yi Tok-sun, second secretary of the North Korean General Delegation in Paris, in a first comment by a diplomatic source, said the report should be distrusted as similar wrong reports had been published by the same source in the past. "There is very big stability in our country, and there is no reason to talk of a plot", Mr. Yi who is in charge of the press department said.

North Korea's official news agency has not carried the report, according to Mr. Yi. [passage omitted]

Other Japanese news services did not report the radio dispatch, nor did the official Korean Central News Agency, monitored in Tokyo.

Coup Rumors Called 'Groundless'

LD0802153691 Moscow TASS in English 1501 GMT 8 Feb 91

[Report by TASS correspondnet Vladimir Nadashkevich]

[Text] Pyongyang February 8 TASS—A spokesman for the North Korean Foreign Ministry described as "false and groundless rumors" a statement circulated by KYODO TSUSHIN of Japan, saying that Radio Pyongyang had allegedly reported on Thursday an attempted coup in the country. He gave this assessment of the KYODO TSUSHIN report in a telephone interview with TASS.

Newspapers, radio and television of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea are not circulating any materials on this subject today.

South Korean officials, who are closely following the developments in North Korea, also doubted the correctness of the rumors. According to the YONHAP News Agency, a representative of the South Korean Government, whose name they did not mention, said that Radio Pyongyang is trying to show in its programmes that there is no problem with the continuity of authority in North Korea. They have not mentioned any attempted coup

Chuche 'Blood Lineage' Examined

SK0802015991 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0600 GMT 7 Feb 91

[Unattributed talk: "The Immortal Achievements of Our Party Inheriting and Developing the Blood Lineage of Chuche"]

[Text] Our party is a glorious party which brilliantly inherits the blood lineage of chuche.

To realize the cause of socialist and communist construction, the party of the working class should firmly defend and brilliantly inherit the blood lineage established by the leader. Only when the past, present, and future of the revolution are consistently connected in a single stream can the cause of the party of the working class be victoriously advanced and consummated without being halted or deteriorated halfway.

The blood vein which makes it possible to connect the generations of the revolution and consistently advance the revolutionary cause is precisely the blood lineage of the party of the working class. The blood lineage of the party is established by the leader, its founder, and leader [yongdoja].

In the course of pioneering and leading the cause of building the party and the revolutionary cause, the leader of the working class creates the guiding idea and theory of the party and the revolution, attains revolutionary achievements and fighting experiences, and establishes a revolutionary work method and people-minded work style.

These revolutionary assets secured by the leader are precisely the blood lineage of the party.

Comrade Kim Chong-il, member of the Political Bureau Presidium and secretary of the party Central Committee, has noted: The chuche blood lineage of our party is precisely the great Comrade Kim Il-song's idea, theory, revolutionary achievements, fighting experiences, and work method.

Because it has been established amid an unprecedentedly serious and multifaceted struggle over a long period of time, the blood lineage is endlessly rich and precious, and is of eternal vitality to the strengthening and development of our party and the victory of our revolution.

What is fundamental in the blood lineage of our party established by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song is the chuche idea and theory. The chuche idea and theory created by reflecting the demands of our times and revolution are the most scientific and revolutionary idea and theory which brilliantly illuminate the road to national liberation, class emancipation, human emancipation, and the road to communism.

The chuche blood lineage also contains the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's revolutionary achievements, fighting experiences, and work method. The great leader's revolutionary achievements, fighting experiences, and work method—which were attained in an unprecedentedly arduous and complicated struggle—are endlessly precious revolutionary assets and invaluable wealth which firmly guarantee the victorious advance of our revolution.

Because it comprehensively contains the guiding idea, the method and style of organizing and mobilizing the masses, and all other things that should be taken as a guideline in building the party and carrying out the revolutionary cause, the blood lineage of chuche becomes the greatest blood lineage and is of eternal vitality over the entire historic period in which the resplendent future of communism is built.

Dear Comrade Kim Chong-il, regarding it a noble mission to inherit the blood lineage of chuche, has won an immortal achievement in wisely leading the struggle to accomplish the mission.

Our party's achievement in inheriting the chuche blood lineage is, above all, to have seen to it that it has been most purely inherited. Taking purely inheriting the chuche blood lineage as the most important matter for strengthening and developing the party and victoriously advancing the revolution, our party has energetically struggled so that only the assets secured by the great leader can be inherited and they can be handed down to the generations to come.

To inherit only the revolutionary assets secured by the great leader as its blood lineage, our party has seen to it that all fields and units have respectfully built Comrade Kim Il-song revolutionary ideological study rooms and have substantially managed them.

Our party built as everlasting monuments the old revolutionary battlefields, historic spots, revolutionary museums, and memorial halls in every place where the respected leader's revolutionary history dwells. Thus, our party wisely led the leader's revolutionary achievements to be succeeded invariably and forever.

Great outdoor revolutionary museums, built around Mt. Paektu—the sacred revolutionary mountain—the Tower of the Chuche Idea, the Arch of Triumph, and many other monumental creations that convey the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's immortal revolutionary history over generations have been built. All the people, highly praising the respected leader's revolutionary ideas and achievements, are studying them in depth. This reality powerfully proves the wise nature of the leadership of our party which tenaciously inherited the blood lineage of chuche.

Besides, our party is carrying out all of its activities based on the great leader's revolutionary ideas and theory, on the achievements and experiences attained by the leader, and on his work method and work style. Thus, our party inherited its blood lineage with purity.

The purity of the blood lineage of the party is guaranteed through the struggle against all sorts of different and antirevolutionary elements. The achievements of our party which inherited the blood lineage of chuche with purity are linked with such a struggle.

While waging the resolute and uncompromising struggle against the antiparty alien elements which schemed to confuse the purity of the blood lineage by coming forth with something which has no links with the revolutionary assets of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, our party has led, as a task of the entire party, the struggle to eradicate the ideological (?remnants) scattered by them.

By swiftly exposing and crushing the schemes of the antiparty and antirevolutionary factional elements, and the antiparty revisionist elements which had hidden themselves in the party, our party has overcome and liquidated all sorts of different ideological tendencies which tried to mix (?impurities) with the blood lineage and thoroughly guaranteed the purity of the chuche blood lineage.

Another achievement made by our party in inheriting the chuche blood lineage is that our party, with new experience in struggle and revolutionary successes, has further developed and enriched the revolutionary assets provided by the great leader.

It is an important principle of our party's activities to treasure the revolutionary assets provided by the respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song and to inherit and develop them even if the revolution far advances and the generation changes.

Proceeding from this principled position, our party made a new achievement and won new experience each time and in each step of the revolution and construction. Thus, our party consolidated the precious assets, which are included in the blood lineage, as an everlasting cornerstone, and made a great contribution to firmly inheriting the chuche blood lineage. Thanks to our party's energetic and creative activities, the treasure house of the great leader's revolutionary ideas has further developed into that of new ideological and theoretical assets, and has been enriched with them. These assets are now being firmly turned into our own style guiding ideology for the revolution.

Based on the great leader's chuche-oriented idea and theory on building the party, our party assumed the

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chuche-orientation of the entire party as the basic issue for building the party, and more firmly established the party's monolithic ideological system within the entire party. Our party won precious experience and achievements in establishing an orderly party work system and party work method. Thus, our party has realized a firm guarantee for enhancing the party's combat capabilities and for leading the revolution and construction to victory.

As a result of this, the revolutionary assets that the great leader has provided have been further developed and enriched. With the brilliant settlement of the question of inheriting its blood lineage thanks to the wise leadership of dear Comrade Kim Chong-il, our party has perfectly had the appearance as a party having the invincible might which can lead the historic march toward socialism and communism to the end.

Amid the struggle to inherit its blood lineage, our party—which was founded with the chuche idea as its guiding principle—has invariably defended its revolutionary character as the chuche-type party and have been strengthened and developed as the great helmsman of the working class and the popular masses.

The dignified appearance of our party which has invariably defended its chuche-oriented character is demonstrated first of all by invariably advancing forward, holding aloft the banner of struggle that the Down-With-Imperialism Union lifted up in the past. The program of modeling the whole society after the chuche idea that our party set forth and has embodied is originated from the Down-With-Imperialism Union's program on building socialism and communism on the soil of the fatherland based on the principle of independence, and on doing away with imperialism from the earth. It is also the program developed from the union's program in conformity with the demands of the practice of the revolution.

Thus, our party is advancing forward, holding aloft the banner of the revolution to the end which it held aloft in the period when it took its roots in the past. Right here lies the thorough revolution-mindedness of our party and its brilliant continuity. The chuche-oriented character of our party has been more firmly defended by the party's organizational and ideological solidity attained in the course of inheriting and developing the blood lineage of chuche. This shows that the achievements of having built the organizational and ideological foundation for party founding, which was provided in the flames of the anti-Japanese struggle with the first party organization—which opened the historic beginning of our party building—as its parent body, have been inherited and further consolidated and developed.

With the inheritance of the blood lineage of chuche, our people have been active, defining it as their firm principle to independently and creatively solve all problems which arise in the revolution and construction. They do not blindly accept others' experiences. They have accepted them in conformity with our own situation and demands and developed them in an independent manner.

Our party has most brilliantly solved the center of unity which will be inherited generation after generation and has realized single-hearted unity in which the entire party and all of the people have firmly rallied around their leader [yondoja]. It is our people's great pride and boundless honor to be blessed with the wise leadership of dear Comrade Kim Chong-il, who has brilliantly solved the question of purely inheriting the blood lineage of chuche provided by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and who is, thus, advancing our revolution along the single road of victory.

As long as there is the immortal blood lineage of chuche and our party which firmly ensures its continuity our revolutionary cause will be always victorious and invincible.

'Single-Minded Unity' Stressed

SK0802120191 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0600 GMT 8 Feb 91

[Unattributed talk: "Ours Is a Great Party That Has Realized the Single-Minded Unity"]

[Text] The single-minded unity among the leader, the party, and the masses in our country has now reached a most noble height unheard of in the long history of the Korean communist movement. Indeed, it is the great dignity and pride of our party and people that the whole society lives and works as a single sociopolitical organic body, as well as a harmonious household on the basis of the ideological single-minded unity and the single-minded unity of action. To realize single-minded unity among the leader, the party, and the masses is one of the basic questions that arise in the victorious progress of the revolutionary movement and in the struggle to consummate it. For the working masses—including the working class—to vigorously stage a struggle for exploring their own fate, it is imperative to unite around the leader as one.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has noted: For the popular masses to become the independent main force behind the revolution, they should be united on a single ideology to become a single organization under the guidance of the party and leader.

Only the popular masses that are in unity and cohesion organizationally and ideologically can explore their fate independently and creatively. Triumphing and advancing on the basis of the strength of the popular masses united as one around the leader [yongdoja] of the revolution is the inevitable course of the developing revolutionary struggle of the working class.

The working class's revolutionary struggle for realizing independence is a work designed to restructure and remold nature, society, and man and it accompanies a

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serious class struggle. For the working class and the popular masses to emerge victorious in the class struggle on which gigantic changes and their survival hinge, they should be united around the leader [yongdoja] as one.

Realizing the single-minded unity among the leader, the party, and the masses at a new height is a basic factor that is capable of keeping the revolution pure and alive, particularly at a time when the revolution changes hands, and of consummating the revolutionary cause to the end from generation to generation.

The revolution advances and triumphs as it is destined to be inherited in terms of history. For this reason, even the single-minded unity built on the blood ties between the leader [yongdoja] and the popular masses should be inherited, cemented, and developed from generation to generation.

Historical experience has shown that whether the single-minded unity around the successor to the leader [suryong] can be achieved or not at a time when the revolution changes hands is at once a very important question about whether the revolution can be kept alive or not. The single-minded unity that remains the basic question in the whole course of exploring, advancing, and consummating the revolutionary cause of the working class can be brilliantly realized by the successor who is endlessly faithful to the leader of the working class and to his ideology and leadership.

The most solid and vital single-minded unity has been brilliantly realized in our country thanks to the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, the great successor to the leader's revolutionary cause.

The dear comrade leader has inherited and developed the tradition of unity established by the great leader in the course of guiding our party and people, thereby achieving the single-minded unity in which the leader, the party, and the masses are united with each other as one life.

The single-minded unity realized by our party is the single-minded unity in which the leader, the party, and the masses are linked with blood ties based on the scientific understanding of the position occupied and role played by the leader in the sociopolitical organic body. The single-minded unity means the unity in which the masses are united around the leader with blood ties under the guidance of the party. The popular masses can be single-mindedly united around the leader as one life only when they are awakened to the fact that the leader is the center of their lives and that their own fate is linked to the leader by blood ties.

After broaching a new outstanding theory on a new sociopolitical organic body based on the chuche idea, the dear comrade leader has given a unique explanation that the leader is the center of the life of this organic body. Thus, he has laid a valuable cornerstone on which the popular masses have become single-mindedly united in the sociopolitical organic body centered on the leader.

The essential nature of the single-minded unity realized by our party and the greatness of the party's leadership lie in the fact that he has explained the position that the leader occupies in the sociopolitical organic body and that he has united all the people around the party and leader based on the immortal chuche idea.

What is important in the leadership of our party which has realized single-minded unity among the leader, the party, and the masses is, above all, that it has developed and enriched the chuche idea established by the great leader into new forms of ideological and theoretical wealth and armed the entire party and all the people firmly with the chuche idea, thereby laying the ideological foundation for the single-minded unity that is inherited from generation to generation.

Only when the leader's [suryong] revolutionary ideology is deepened and developed without let-up according to the demands of the times and the revolution, can it become the ideological base of the single-minded unity that is inherited from generation to generation.

Thanks to the dear comrade leader's outstanding ideological and theoretical activity and his energetic guidance, the chuche idea has been developed and enriched into new forms of ideological and theoretical wealth, and the work aimed at establishing the guiding ideological system inside the party has been deepened without interruption. As a result, the ideological foundation for the single-minded unity that is handed over to the next generations has been firmly provided and the ideological and volitional unity among the leader, the party, and the masses has been cemented rock-solid.

Our revolutionary ranks have now been firmly cemented into the chuche-oriented ranks united around the party and the leader as one on the basis of the one and only ideology, the chuche idea, and into invincible ranks that vigorously advance the chuche cause, never allowing it to tremble in the face of the suddenly fluctuating situation or any foreign ideology to infiltrate and change its color. All the party members and working people are firmly united as a united ideological and volitional body that follows the dictate of the chuche idea in thinking and always shares the same fate with the party by assuming the ideology and will of the party and the leader as its firm faith every minute throughout its life time. The proud aspect of this very pure ideological and volitional united body is clear proof of the greatness and wise leadership of our party which has laid the ideological foundation for single-minded unity.

Another important aspect of the leadership of our party which has realized single-minded unity among the leader, the party, and the masses is that the organizational base of the single-minded unity that is inherited from generation to generation has been cemented rock-firm and that the party's leadership system has been firmly established.

The main force behind the revolution is the ideological and volitional united body, and at the same time an organizational monolithic body. Without organizational cohesion, in addition to the ideological and volitional unity, the popular masses cannot be linked to the leader with blood ties or united as one around the leader [yongdoja] as an organic body. Now the question of organizational cohesion boils down to the question of laying the organizational foundation for firmly guaranteeing the central position of the leadership.

Only when the party's organizational foundation is firmly laid and when the leadership system is correctly established can the center of the organizational unity be firmly guaranteed from generation to generation and the single-minded unity among the leader, the party, and the masses be realized at a new stage.

The dear comrade leader has sagaciously led the work of firmly organizing the ranks of the cadres and of cementing the party ranks in terms of quality in order to further strengthen the party's organizational foundation.

In particular the dear comrade leader, after explaining that the essential nature of the party is to perform the central function in uniting the popular masses around the leader as a single sociopolitical organic body, has freshly explained the matters of principle and ways needed for all the functionaries, party members, and the working people to strengthen their organizational life.

Also, our party has made all the functionaries, party members, and working people not only understand the value of the organization in principle, but also form the habit of moving at all times according to the dictate and rules of the organization and vigorously lead the organizational life by linking it to the revolutionary practices.

Thanks to such sagacious guidance by our party, the functionaries and party members actively take part in the organizational life driven by a correct outlook on the organization. As a result, the party ranks have been qualitatively organized and the organizational foundation has been laid for single-minded unity.

In addition to making the entire party establish the revolutionary tradition of accepting the party's decisions and directives and of completely implementing them without conditions, our party has sagaciously led the struggle to establish the revolutionary discipline of making the entire party and all the people move as one according to the party center's monolithic guidance.

Also, after taking a drastic step to unite the masses from all walks of life around the party after educating them, the party has seen to it that all the functionaries stay among the masses with a revolutionary outlook on the masses and live and work among them according to the dictate of the people-minded work methods and work habit. In this way, the party's organizational foundation has been laid even more firmly, its leadership system has been thoroughly established, and the party's mass-oriented foundation has been cemented rock-firm. This is an immortal feat of our party which has brilliantly fulfilled the historic task of firmly guaranteeing the organizational center of the single-minded unity from generation to generation, thereby realizing the organizational unity of the entire party and all the people.

The next important thing to realize about our party's leadership and the single-minded unity among the leader, the party, and the masses is that it has made all the party members and working people cherish their loyalty to the party and leader as their revolutionary faith and sense of obligation.

Cherishing loyalty to the party and leader as one's revolutionary faith and sense of obligation is an important demand arising in rendering single-minded unity among the leader, the party, and the masses as the most genuine kind.

Our party has led in making people deeply recognize the respected and beloved leader as a great person who has done the greatest favor of making the nation survive; has given the noble sociopolitical life to all of our people; and has provided them with the happiest and most rewarding life, and then made them uphold and honor the leader as their genuine father. It has also seen to it that indoctrination in loyalty be actively carried out to make all the party members and working people uphold the party and leader with high esteem according to the dictate of their spotless consciences, and not out of a sense of obligation.

In particular our party, after presenting as models of loyalty the young communists such as Kim Hyok and Cha Kwang-su, and the fallen anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters who were endlessly loyal to the great leader, has made all the party members and working people cherish deep in their hearts their loyalty to the party and leader as revolutionary faith and obligation, just as the aforementioned did.

As a result, loyalty built on revolutionary comradeship and a sense of obligation—which filled the anti-Japanese revolutionary ranks—has been inherited in full and the tradition of the single-minded unity that formed firmly around the great leader at the dawn of the revolution has been transformed into one that covers the whole society centering on the party and the leader, as well as something that is invincible to the point where no force on earth can break it asunder.

Indeed, the single-minded unity of our party and all the people across the country, which has been achieved thanks to the outstanding and tested leadership of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, is the greatest unity and cohesion unheard of in the history of the communist movement as well as the most powerful unity and cohesion equipped with the indomitable vitality which is capable of consummating our revolutionary cause to the end, as it is one that has been most solidly formed—organizationally, ideologically, and with blood ties—based on the single center.

The dazzling future of our fatherland and people is firmly ensured by the might of this great unity and cohesion. We should keep accelerating the cause of socialist and communist construction, the chuche revolutionary cause, without let-up by cementing this proud single-minded unity even more solidly.

Normalization Talks Not To Affect Reunification

SK0102143691 Seoul YONHAP in English 1230 GMT 1 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 1 (YONHAP)—North Korea's move to normalize its relations with Japan would not bring any change to its long-held "one Korea" policy, North Korean Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam said Friday.

Kim also said, in a press conference held for a group of Japanese journalists now visiting Pyongyang to cover Pyongyang-Tokyo talks, that Pyongyang's acceptance of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) safeguards agreement is not a matter to be discussed with Japan. He said North Korea is determined to settle the issue through direct talks with the United States.

Asked on North Korea's inter-Korean policy, Kim said, "There is no change in our policy of standing opposed to the two Koreas concept... as manifested in the joint declaration of the three parties (North Korea's Workers Party, Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party, Japan Socialist Party). Korea is one nation. Japan seeks to normalize ties with North Korea on that premise.

"The so-called cross-recognition (of Pyongyang by Japan and the United States and Seoul by China and the Soviet Union) is but an eccentric concept in which foreign relations are taken as a material. The normalization of relations between North Korea and Japan cannot be accepted as a policy change."

Touching on the nuclear issue, Kim said, "We do not sign the safeguards agreement as the United States does not withdraw its nuclear threat. We hope to open dialogue with the United States and settle this problem at an early date."

The North Korean official warned the holding of the South Korea-U.S. joint military exercise at this time poses an "artificial" obstacle to the inter-Korean prime minister talks. He stressed that due attention should be drawn to the coincidence between the Gulf war and the Team Spirit exercises.

U.S. 'Interference' Criticized

SK0802054091 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0512 GMT 8 Feb 91

[Text] Pyongyang February 8 (KCNA)—U.S. Ambassador to South Korea Gregg recently said Japan must not fail to meet South Korea's demand over nuclear inspection before reaching an agreement with the DPRK on the normalization of relations.

Voices are spewing forth from the U.S. ruling circles that it is difficult to hope for rapproachment beyond a certain limit in the DPRK-Japan relations without progress in North-South dialogue.

Commenting on this, NODONG SINMUN today says this is a blatant interference in the talks for the normalization of DPRK-Japan relations and a maladroit trick to create an obstacle to the talks.

The news analyst further says:

The United States is hindering the progress of North-South dialogue in every way and the South Korean rulers, true to their master's intention, are laying obstacles to the dialogue. They persistently oppose the removal of military confrontation which is most important for peace and reunification of Korea and launched the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises, a test nuclear war, against their dialogue partner to bring the talks to a head.

Contending that DPRK-Japan talks should not go ahead of North-South dialogue, they reveal their ulterior intention to block the normalization of DPRK-Japan diplomatic relations at any cost, hating it.

It is also shameless for them to talk about the problem of the signing of the nuclear safeguards accord under the nuclear non-proliferation treaty. We have never rejected the signing of the accord but have taken the stand for signing it as soon as possible.

It is delayed because the United States has many nuclear weapons deployed in South Korea, threatening us.

The United States, while keeping its finger on the trigger of nuclear weapons levelled at us, urge us to sign the nuclear safeguards accord. This is a brigandish demand reminding us of a thief crying "stop thief!" And a pressure on Japan to raise this demand at the talks and stick to it.

Talks for the normalization of DPRK-Japan relations are sincere talks for the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. It is an impudent act urged by malice to meddle in the talks.

Shameless enough to openly interfere in DPRK-Japan talks and impede them, the United States seek a sinister aim to key up tension in northeast Asia, maintain its military existence in this region under this pretext and keep hold on South Korea and other areas of this region indefinitely as a military stronghold for its anti-DPRK, anti-socialist strategy.

If the United States truly wants peace and stability in northeast Asia including the Korean peninsula, it must immediately withdraw its forces and nuclear weapons, the root cause of their disturbance, from South Korea and all other areas, stop such provocative military manoeuvres as the "Team Spirit" joint exercises and turn to defusing military confrontation and easing tension.

Messages in Support of Reunification Received

From Foreign Party Leaders

*SK0802045391 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0425 GMT 8 Feb 91*

[All non-Korean names as received]

[Text] Pyongyang February 8 (KCNA)—The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, received solidarity messages and letters from foreign party leaders supporting the new proposal for national reunification advanced by him in his New Year address for 1991.

Chairman Preben Mollen Hansen and the international secretary of the Danish Workers' Party, Common Cause, in their solidarity message expressed full support to the new proposal for national reunification put forward by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song in his New Year address, saying this proposal is of greater significance as it makes it possible to realize reunification while leaving the different political and economic systems in the North and the South as they are.

David Baz, chairman of the National Socialist Party of Syria in Lebanon, fully supported Comrade Kim Il-song's proposal to achieve the reunification of the country by means of confederation on the basis of one nation, one state, two systems and two governments.

Noting that "reunification by prevailing over communism" on the Korean peninsula is a wild fancy of the South Korean authorities which will never come true, he stressed that all machinations to keep one Korea divided should be smashed.

Rashed Khan Menon, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Bangladesh, said:

The New Year address of Comrade Kim Il-song gives hope and confidence again to the oppressed people of the world at a time when the socialist movement is undergoing a serious crisis and the new offensive of the imperialists and reactionaries against the world people who love peace and progress is intensifying.

He expressed the belief that the Korean people will win greater victory in their struggle for socialist construction and the peaceful reunification of the country.

From Lebanese Socilaist Party

*SK0802045091 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0431 GMT 8 Feb 91*

[Text] Pyongyang February 8 (KCNA)—A solidarity message came to the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] from Durayd Yaghi, vice-president of the Socialist Progressive Party of Lebanon, supporting the new proposal for national reunification put forward by the great leader President Kim Il-song in his New Year address.

The message expresses support to the unremitting struggle of the Korean people for national reunification under the wise leadership of Comrade Kim Il-song.

We support the DPRK's proposal for reunification of the country by establishing a confederal state on the principle of neither side conquering the other or being conquered by the other, stresses the message.

Political Parties Propose Contact With South

*SK0802050791 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0434 GMT 8 Feb 91*

[Text] Pyongyang February 8 (KCNA)—The Central Committees of the Workers' Party of Korea, the Korean Social Democratic Party and the Chondoist Chongu Party sent a letter to the Party for Peace and Democracy, the Democratic Party and the popular party of South Korea proposing contact and dialogue between representatives of political parties in the North and the South to discuss the question of peace and reunification of the country under the present-day complex situation in which the North-South relations are growing extremely acute.

The letter was handed today to the South side via Panmunjom.

The letter dated February 8 reads:

As is already known, the January 8 joint meeting of representatives of the DPRK Government, political parties and organizations initiated the convocation of a political consultative conference to confirm the method of national reunification on the occasion of August 15 this year, the 46th anniversary of national liberation, and sent letters containing a concrete proposal related to it to your political parties.

This step of ours proceeded from our noble intention to accomplish the cause of national reunification in a few years in conformity with the desire of the whole nation and the purpose to discharge the heavy responsibility we have assumed before the nation as politicians.

Now is the time for the representatives of political parties in the North and the South to sit down together, discuss the destiny of the nation and open up the prospect of reunification together, we think.

At present, the North-South relations which had been showing signs of reconciliation and unity are going back to the original point of confrontation, and the tensions are growing to the extreme pitch as "an emergency alert step" hostile to fellow countrymen was taken in South Korea with the outbreak of the Gulf war and the adventurous "Team Spirit" joint military exercises are being staged there. This reality urgently demands that we men of political parties in the North and the South sit at one table as early as possible and take responsible steps for cutting the Gordian knot.

It is, indeed, a supreme task whose solution brooks not a moment's delay for the politicians to share one mind and pool their efforts jointly to pave the path of the nation, transcending isms [as received] and views, at a time when those forces which do not want peace and reunification place their partisan interests above all else and pursue a reckless confrontational policy, making the interests of the whole nation a scapegoat.

Politicians of the North and the South should quickly meet each other for peace of the country in a perilous state and have dialogue for reunification.

Even political parties of different countries exchange visits and have contact and dialogue with each other. The political parties in the North and the South of the same nation find no ground to build a wall between them. And that they had never met each other cannot be the reason that they cannot meet and have dialogue with each other now.

As for the contact between representatives of political parties in the North and the South, the sooner the better and the more useful under the present complicated situation.

If we sit face to face, we, before talking about the difference in ideology and idea, shall share anxiety about the strained situation of the country which is being brought to the brink of war, sincerely seek a way of saving the fellow countrymen from the danger of war, confirm each other's will for reunification and discuss in a straightforward manner the nation's common reasonable method of reunifying the country by incorporating the desire of the fellow countrymen for reunification into one flow.

The meeting of us men of political parties will make it possible to have wide-range discussions on the views of all the political parties for peace and peaceful reunification of the country, not one side's opinion only, on the principle of respecting each other's argument.

It is our position that the contact and dialogue between political parties of the North and the South should not be wedded to any form, be it bilateral or multilateral.

Proceeding from this stand, we courteously invite to Pyongyang the representatives of the Party for Peace and Democracy, the Democratic Party and the Popular Party of South Korea.

Their Pyongyang visit may take place in February or March or any other time convenient for them.

The contact and dialogue between political parties of the North and the South will successfully contribute to recording a new page of peace and reunification in the history of our nation.

As political parties of South Korea have already manifested their willingness to visit Pyongyang, we express the hope that the contact between political parties will be realised without fail in the near future.

With regards.

No Tae-u's Inspection Tour of Kwangju Examined

SK0802102891 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1011 GMT 8 Feb 91

[Text] Pyongyang February 8 (KCNA)—No Tae-u showed up in Kwangju in his "inspection" tour and waxed eloquent as if he would do something for the Kwangju citizens. Commenting on this, NODONG SINMUN today brands it as a third-rate burlesque to lull the grievance and resentment of the Kwangju citizens and emasculate their fighting spirit in a bid to lay a foundation for long-term office by carrying out the forthcoming "local assembly elections" as they intend.

The news analyst says:

Thousands of citizens were killed in Kwangju in a few days in the massacre committed by No Tae-u together with Chon Tu-hwan under the behind-the-scene manipulation of the U.S. imperialists.

The murderer should have been condemned to the gallows long ago for his grave crimes in plunging Kwangju into a sea of blood. Far from atoning for his crimes, he appeared in Kwangju where the souls of the victims are buried and tried to cover up his crimes and gratify his wild ambition for long-term office, letting loose a string of hypocritic words such as "building a new Kwangju". This is, indeed, hateful and disgusting.

It is an intolerable mockery of and challenge to the Kwangju resistance fighters and citizens that the murderer who was branded as one of the "five traitors" of Kwangju and an object of punishment, talked rubbish about the "measures for healing the wounds" of Kwangju.

If he truly intends to heal the mental wounds of the Kwangju citizens, he must clarify the truth of the Kwangju incident first of all, not resorting to a clumsy trick and, on this basis, must apologize for his crimes in the massacre and face judgement by the people.

The South Korean people and the Kwangju citizens who have seen through the murderous and fascist character of No Tae-u through their own life, will not discontinue the struggle for independence, democracy and reunification and will pass a stern judgement on him in the name of history.

South's Case Against 'Progressive Forces' Cited

SK0802105191 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1017 GMT 8 Feb 91

[Text] Pyongyang February 8 (KCNA)—The South Korean authorities arrested So Tong-ho of East District, Ulsan, Committee of the Popular Party and figures of various circles on charges of involvement in the faked-up "Saromaeng case" and prosecuted Yi Man-sop, a worker of the Hyundai Heavy Industries, on February 6, according to a radio report from Seoul.

The authorities invoked the "National Security Law" against them, linking their activities to awaken workers in a far-fetched manner with the "Saromaeng case".

In late January they cracked down upon opposition party figures, labor activists and religionists on the same charges.

This shows that the South Korean authorities are running amuck to put down the ever mounting struggle of the people for independence, democracy and reunification and disorganise and stifle the progressive forces.

South's Arrest of Trade Union Leaders Cited

SK3101235891 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1524 GMT 31 Jan 91

[Text] Pyongyang January 31 (KCNA)—The No Tae-u ruling group has never ceased to suppress the "National Council of Trade Unions" (Chonnohyop) in the past one year since its inauguration, according to a South Korean newspaper report.

The authorities arrested Tan Pyong-ho, chairman of the council, in late January last year when the council was inaugurated, and detained Kim Yong-tae, acting chairman of the council at the end of last year.

More than 500 members of this organization were arrested by the authorities last year.

The authorities conducted "investigation" into 127 trade unions under the council and suppressed nearly 80 unions that did not yield to it by invoking "law".

U.S.-ROK Use of Radar Jamming Planes Reported

SK0802052291 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0457 GMT 8 Feb 91

["Aerial Electronic Warfare Exercise Against North"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang February 8 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialist aggressors staged on February 6 an aerial electronic warfare exercise in the South Korean airspace according to the program of the criminal "Team Spirit 91" joint manoeuvres, said military sources.

They brought an EA-6 electronic jamming plane to the air above the East Sea of South Korea from the Iwakuni Base, Japan, for electronic jamming covering an extensive area.

At the same time, the U.S. imperialists let formations of F-16 fighter-bombers belonging to the U.S. Seventh Air Force in South Korea and formations of A-370 assault planes belonging to the South Korean puppet Air Force make flights to the operational theatre affected by electronic jamming around Kunwi to make a surprise strike at the targets.

This military exercise was aimed at quickly hurling electronic jamming planes to the Korean peninsula from their overseas aggressive bases in the "event of contingency" to paralyze our radars and communication devices and then immediately sending formations of fighter-bombers and assault planes for surprise strikes at targets. It is a grave military provocation which openly revealed the U.S. imperialists' wild design to invade the north of Korea.

Reportage on Team Spirit-91 Denunciations

From Factory Workers

SK0802152091 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1459 GMT 8 Feb 91

[Text] Pyongyang February 8 (KCNA)—Meetings were held at factories in different parts of the country to denounce the "Team Spirit 91" joint military exercises of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean ruling group.

At an employees' meeting of the Mangyongdae machine tool factory, speakers sharply denounced the "Team Spirit 91" joint military manoeuvres of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean ruling group as a nuclear war game for forestalling strike at the North, not one for "defence".

Speakers at a similar meeting held at the Haeju cement factory branded this criminal war game as a vicious challenge to our sincere efforts for peaceful reunification and an unpardonable criminal act of jeopardizing peace in Asia and the world, and denounced the U.S. imperialists and their stooges for engaging in new war provocation moves.

They earnestly appealed to all the South Korean workers and people to rise in struggle to check and frustrate the new war provocation manoeuvres of the U.S. imperialists and the No Tae-u ruling group and to achieve peace and peaceful reunification of the country.

Speakers at an employees' meeting of the Kim Chong-tae general electric locomotive factory condemned the joint military exercises as a nuclear war game for pre-emptive attack on the northern half of Korea, drawing attention to the fact that huge aggression forces, all types of up-to-date combat equipment and mass destruction weapons of the U.S. imperialists from the mainland and their bases overseas as well as the U.S. occupation forces in South Korea and the South Korean puppet army are thrown into the exercises.

They strongly demanded that the U.S. imperialists halt the aggressive "Team Spirit 91" joint military exercises at once and the South Korean authorities immediately discontinue the suppression of pro-reunification democratic forces, not following the war manoeuvres of the U.S. imperialists.

From Japanese Residents

SK0702115491 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1020 GMT 7 Feb 91

[Text] Pyongyang February 7 (KCNA)—Kim Si-chin, vice-chairman of the Nishi Tokyo headquarters of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon), Kim Yong-sam, director of the Propaganda Department of the Hokkaido headquarters of Chongnyon, Yi Yong-cha, chairwoman of the Nishinari branch of the Democratic Union of Korean Women in Japan, and other local officials of Chongnyon made public statements to the press on Feb. 4 in denunciation of the "Team Spirit 91" manoeuvres. In their statements they said that the military exercises being staged by the United States and the South Korean authorities are an intolerable challenge to the entire Korean people desirous of peaceful reunification and, if the United States and the South Korean authorities are really interested in dialogue and peace, they should immediately stop the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises. The February 1 issue of MINJOK SIBO, the "Mindan"-lining Koreans' newspaper, in an editorial said that the "Team Spirit 91" joint military exercises launched by the United States and the No Tae-u ruling group with outbreak of the Gulf war are bringing military tensions on the Korean peninsula to the extreme pitch and deliberately creating a war crisis. By staging the "Team Spirit" the No "regime" seeks to stifle the people's struggle for independence, democracy and peace and lay a foundation for its long-term office by stiffening the wartime posture, says the editorial.

From Foreign Public Organizations

SK0802152991 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1505 GMT 8 Feb 91

[Text] Pyongyang February 8 (KCNA)—Public organizations of different countries denounced the provocative "Team Spirit 91" joint military exercises of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities.

The Malagasy National Committee for Supporting Korea's Independent and Peaceful Reunification in a statement January 30 condemned the "Team Spirit 91", branding it as an extremely dangerous war gamble which goes against the trend of the present times towards peace and detente and may plunge the Korean peninsula, the Asia-Pacific region and the rest of the world into a holocaust of nuclear war.

The United States and the South Korean authorities started the military exercises with the aim of dampening the unprecedentedly growing desire of the Korean people for reunification and realizing "reunification by prevailing over communism" through armed invasion of the Northern half of Korea, the statement remarked.

The Denmark-DPRK Friendship Association made public a statement on January 30 strongly urging the United States to immediately end all military actions in South Korea.

It stressed that the United States must accept the DPRK's proposal of replacing the armistice agreement by a peace agreement and the South Korean authorities should unconditionally accept the DPRK's proposal for the adoption of a nonaggression declaration between the North and the South and make all sincere efforts to create peaceful preconditions for reunification.

The Lao Committee for Supporting Korea's Reunification in a statement February 7 said that the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises are a deed going against the DPRK Government's sincere efforts for the peaceful reunification of Korea. It called upon the parties concerned to make an active contribution to Korea's peaceful reunification in conformity with the desire of the Korean people and the world's peaceloving people.

From PLO

SK0802102391 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1002 GMT 3 Feb 91

[Text] Pyongyang February 8 (KCNA)—A solidarity message came to the Foreign Ministry of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea from the political department of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) denouncing the "Team Spirit 91" joint military exercises of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities.

The "Team Spirit 91" joint military exercises being staged by the United States and the South Korean authorities on the Korean peninsula are an extension of the U.S. moves of aggression against and a challenge to the entire Korean people and the northeast Asian region, the message says, and continues:

We consider that there is no reason whatsoever for the presence of the U.S. forces on the Korean peninsula, and call for an immediate, overall pullout of the U.S. troops from there.

The Palestinian people will stand on the side of the Korean people who stand against the aggressive military exercises of the United States and the South Korean authorities.

NODONG SINMUN Article on Building New Asia

SK2901113491 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1024 GMT 29 Jan 91

["For Building New, Independent, Peaceful and Prosperous Asia"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang January 29 (KCNA)—If the Asian people are to promote the cause of building a new, independent, peaceful and prosperous Asia, it is important to hold higher the banner of independence against imperialism, dynamically advance along the road of creating a new life and building new society and wage a valiant struggle to turn Asia into a nuclear-free, peace zone, stresses NODONG SINMUN today in a by-lined article titled "For Building New, Independent, Peaceful and Prosperous Asia".

The article quotes the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song as saying:

"Today Asia is entering a new stage of development.

If they unite and cooperate closely with one another on the principles of independence, equality and mutual benefit, the diligent and talented Asian people can achieve the security and common prosperity of Asia and contribute to the cause of world peace. The government of the Republic will actively develop the relations of friendship and cooperation with the peoples of many Asian countries in order to build a new, independent, peaceful and prosperous Asia."

It continues:

The teaching of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song indicates the course of a new change and development which are taking place in the Asian region; it is the outstanding idea that a new, independent, peaceful and prosperous Asia can be built by the strength and wisdom of the Asian people who are the master.

For building a new, independently peaceful and prosperous Asia the Asian people are struggling politically to remove the domination and interference of foreign forces in this area, do away with all manner of inequality and exercise fully independent rights as the master of Asia and, economically, are striving to terminate the neo-colonialist exploitation and plunder by the imperialists, lay a solid foundation of the national economy and build an advanced national culture. Particularly, they hate the military domination and control of imperialism over the Asian region and are making efforts to have foreign troops, nuclear arms and all other lethal weapons and military bases withdrawn from this region and dismantled and turn Asia into a nuclear-free, peace zone.

This is indispensable to building a truly peaceful, independent and prosperous Asia.

The South Korean puppet clique is the only exception in building a new, independent, peaceful and prosperous Asia, the article says, and continues:

South Korea is the only colony of imperialism remaining in Asia and the South Korean puppets are faithful servants for the U.S. imperialists' Korean and Asian policies and their strategy against independence, peace, progress and socialism.

Feeling uneasy about the rapid development of Asia, the U.S. imperialists are stretching their hands of aggression and intervention deeper into the Asian region in a bid to prevent it. Such manoeuverings of the U.S. imperialists are the evils that wreck peace and security in the Asian region, coil up tensions and lay obstacles in the way of the people's cause of independence.

Asia should be Asia for the Asians and all the countries in this region should get united with one another and, to this end, should have a louder voice as the master of Asia.

If the diligent and talented Asian people unite and cooperate closely with one another on the principles of independence, equality and mutual benefit, they can achieve the security and common prosperity of Asia and contribute to the cause of world peace.

The question of peace, security and cooperation in Asia should, under all circumstances, take the course of being solved by the Asian people, its master. The cutback of the foreign forces in the Asian region and their withdrawal is the prerequisite to the establishment of a security system in Asia. The United States should renounce its plan of war on the Korean peninsula, sign a peace agreement with the DPRK at an early date, withdraw its troops, nuclear weapons and military bases from South Korea and all other parts of Asia and refrain from obstructing the efforts of the people in this region to build a nuclear-free, peace zone.

We will actively strive for the relaxation of tensions and durable peace on the Korean peninsula and develop in every way the friendly and cooperative relations with the Asian peoples for a new, independent, peaceful and prosperous Asia, declares the article.

Coverage of Yon Hyong-muk's Visit to Malaysia

Premier Visits Various Sites

SK0802023691 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1200 GMT 7 Feb 91

[Text] On 5 February, Comrade Yon Hyong-muk, premier of our country's State Administration Council, and his entourage visited this country's rubber research institute, a plant producing equipment for telecommunications, and the Tourist Information Center while on an official goodwill visit to Malaysia. On 6 February they visited a seedling research institute and an automobile plant. They also visited (Slanggorju).

The Malaysian vice finance minister and our country's ambassador to Malaysia accompanied the premier and his entourage.

After visiting the Tourist Information Center, they saw an art performance.

On 5 February Kim Pok-sin, vice premier of our country's State Administration Council, held talks with the Malaysian Trade and Industry Minister; Chong Song-nam, minister of External Economic Affairs, held talks with the Primary Industries Minister.

On 6 February Cho Kyu-il, vice minister of our country's Foreign Ministry, held talks with the Malaysian vice foreign minister.

Bids Farewell to Prime Minister

SK0802024091 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1200 GMT 7 Feb 91

[Text] Today Comrade Yon Hyong-muk, premier of the DPRK State Administration Council, paid a farewell call on the Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Sri Mahathir bin Mohamed.

During the meeting, talks were held amid a friendly atmosphere. Our country's Vice Foreign Minister, Cho Kyu-il; our country's ambassador to Malaysia, Yu Chae-hwan; the Malaysian finance minister; and the Malaysian ambassador to our country participated in the meeting.

Departs for Pyongyang

SK0802025591 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1200 GMT 7 Feb 91

[Text] Today Comrade Yon Hyong-muk, premier of the DPRK State Administration Council, left Kuala Lumpur by plane after ending his visit to Malaysia. Along with the premier Kim Pok-sin, vice premier of the State Administration Council; Chong Song-nam, minister of external economic affairs; Cho Kyu-il, vice foreign minister; and other entourage members also departed.

The Malaysian foreign minister, finance minister, the Malaysian ambassador to our country, and other functionaries concerned were on hand at the airport to bid farewell to the premier and his entourage.

Yu Chae-hwan, our country's ambassador to Malaysia, and the staff of the embassy were also on hand at the airport.

Yon Hyong-muk, premier of our country's State Administration Council, made a farewell statement upon his departure at the airport.

WPK Group Meets Resistance Members in Uganda

SK0702120891 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1024 GMT 7 Feb 91

[Text] Pyongyang February 7 (KCNA)—Leading members of the National Resistance Movevent of Uganda, talking to a delegation of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] on a visit to Uganda, actively supported the proposals for national reunification put forward by the great leader President Kim Il-song.

The new proposal for national reunification advanced by His Excellency President Kim Il-song in his New Year address is one conforming to the demand of the present situation, the vice-chairman of the movement stressed, adding:

The United States must no longer interfere in the internal affairs of Korea but withdraw its troops from South Korea.

Noting that if Korea enters the United Nations with two seats, it means freezing the division of Korea, the administrative secretary of the Secretariat of the Movement stressed that in case of Korea it is most suitable to join in the U.N. under single nomenclature or with one seat.

Health Cooperation Plan Signed With Mongolia

SK3101235791 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1527 GMT 31 Jan 91

[Text] Pyongyang January 31 (KCNA)—The 1991-1992 plan of cooperation between the Ministry of Public Health of Korea and the Ministry of Health of the Mongolian People's Republic in public health and medical field was signed in Pyongyang on January 31.

It was signed by Vice-Minister of Public Health Kim Yong-ik and Mongolian Ambassador to Korea Jambaldorjiin Bandra.

Compilation of KCNA Press Reviews Published

For 7 February

SK0702051391 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0439 GMT 7 Feb 91

[Text] Pyongyang February 7 (KCNA)—Papers here today carry a report that the great leader President Kim Il-song received solidarity letters from various countries supporting the new proposal for national reunification advanced by him in his new year address for 1991.

The new year address of president Kim Il-song was carried by foreign papers, says NODONG SINMUN.

According to the daily, President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea received a message from Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, president of Cambodia, in reply to his message of condolence sent to the latter on the death of his mother-in-law.

The press gives accounts of seminars on a work of dear Comrade Kim Chong-il held in various countries.

MINJU CHOSON informs the readers of a decision adopted by the Central People's Committee of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to improve and strengthen economic work in South Pyongan Province.

An article of the daily tells that during the anti-Japanese armed struggle, Comrade Kim Chong-suk, an indomitable communist revolutionary fighter, brought up children's corps members to be dependable heirs to the revolution.

Conspicuous in the press is a report that members of the youth shock brigade and other young people in South Hwanghae Province held a meeting for vowing to finish ahead of schedule the project for replacing the narrow-gauge railways between Haeju and Ongjin and between Singangnyong and Pupo with broad-gauge ones.

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Econews of the press deals with continuous innovations being effected in production and construction by working people in various domains of the national economy.

It is reported in the press that Premier Yon Hyong-muk paid a courtesy call on the Malaysian king and sent a message of sympathy to Prime Minister Mian Mohammad Nawaz Sharif in connection with the heavy loss in human lives caused by an earthquake in Pakistan.

NODONG SINMUN runs an article entitled "Higher Educational System of Studying While on the Job and Assimilation of Whole Society to Intelligentsia" and conveys what South Korean people said in praise of the advantages of the educational system in the northern half of Korea.

The press echoes voices at home and abroad denouncing the "Team Spirit 91" joint military exercises of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities and prints articles laying bare the aggressive nature of the war exercises.

NODONG SINMUN informs the readers that the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities continue staging provocative war manoeuvres against the northern half of Korea.

South Korean news columns of the press include a report that members of different organisations and students in Kwangju staged a protest against the Kwangju "trip" of No Tae-u.

Carried in NODONG SINMUN is Information No. 581 issued by the secretariat of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland in denunciation of the treachery of the South Korean authorities in driving the puppet army out to the Gulf war in real earnest in compliance with the demand of the U.S. imperialists.

It is reported in the press that the acting chairman of the C.C., the DPRK Red Cross society sent a telephone message to the president of the South Korean Red Cross as regards the delivery of letters of our side's political parties addressed to South Korean political parties.

Foreign state and party leaders and figures voiced support to the DPRK's new proposal for national reunification, says NODONG SINMUN.

It informs the readers of an agreement on the establishment of a DPRK-Germany economic joint committee signed in Cologne.

It reports that the Soviet president issued a decree on intensifying the struggle against crimes.

Papers give an account of the inter-parliamentary conference on economic cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region held in Thailand.

Iraq is continuing to stubbornly counter the air-raid of the U.S.-led multinational forces, reports the press.

Papers observe day of international solidarity with the South African people.

In an article headlined "Where Did the Commitments of the President to Education Get" NODONG SINMUN says that the commitments to education made by Bush at the time of the presidential election campaign and his inauguration as President have not been implemented properly.

For 8 February

SK0802052491 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0500 GMT 8 Feb 91

[Text] Pyongyang February 8 (KCNA)—Papers here today report that the New Year address of the great leader President Kim Il-song was studied and disseminated in different countries.

According to NODONG SINMUN, President Kim Il-song received solidarity letters from various countries supporting the new proposal for national reunification advanced by him in his New Year address and a solidarity letter came to the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea from the vice-president of the Socialist Progressive Party of Lebanon.

An article of the daily explains how wisely President Kim Il-song has led the development of the poultry industry to improve the people's livelihood.

It gives an account of the meeting of young activists of the February 8 Vinalon Complex to carry through the recent teachings of President Kim Il-song on further increasing production.

It carries the third instalment of an article telling about the warm heart of the Korean people devoted to the Mt. Paektu secret camp where there is the old home of dear Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Under the title "Way of Accomplishing Sacred Cause of Reunification Lies in Advancing Under the Guidance of Mr. Kim Chong-il, Holding President Kim Il-song in High Esteem", the daily conveys what South Korean people said in praise of President Kim Il-song and Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Econews of the press includes reports about innovations in the production of iron headings and timber.

NODONG SINMUN and MINJU CHOSON run articles under the respective titles "It Is Noble Trait of Our People To Fight With Party's Ideas and Theories as Their Faith" and "Chongsanri Spirit and Chongsanri Method Are Revolutionary Principle of Mass Leadership".

The press informs the readers that Premier Yon Hyong-muk returned home after visiting Southeast Asian countries.

Given in the press is an account of a national meeting held to mark the 45th anniversary of the foundation of the Chondoist Chongu Party.

It is reported in the press that the king of Nepal met with a DPRK delegation and the head of state of Burkina Faso received the DPRK ambassador to his country.

According to NODONG SINMUN, the chairman of the Communist Party of Austria met with a vice-director of a department of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

The press reports about mass meetings held at factories in the northern half of Korea to denounce the "Team Spirit 91" joint military exercises. Conveyed there are home and foreign public voices denouncing the exercises.

The press deals with continued war exercises staged by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean ruling group against the North.

In commentaries, papers denounce No Tae-u's trip to Kwangju.

South Korean news of NODONG SINMUN includes reports that the voices against the Gulf war and the dispatch of puppet troops to the war are ringing out from various circles.

It is reported in the press that a joint plenary meeting of the Central Committee and the Central Control Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union was held, Mikhail Moiseyev, chief of the General Staff of the Soviet Army, refuted the report that the Soviet Union handed military secrets of Iraq to the U.S. side and that People's Deputy of the Soviet Union Victor Malksnis, leader of the group of Soyuz deputies, outlined the current situation of the Soviet Union.

The press reports that the foreign ministers of China and India held talks, the servicemen and people of China registered success in joint activities to establish mental civilisation, a seminar on disarmament and security in the Asia-Pacific region was held, the Yugoslav paper BORBA called for smashing the anti-Yugoslav, anti-socialist moves of the West and a summit of the organisation for harnessing the river Gambia was held.

NODONG SINMUN carries a travelogue on China under the title "In Historical Cities".

In a commentary captioned "Officious Interference," the daily hits at the impudent behaviour of the U.S. ruling quarters to lay a hurdle in the way of the talks for the normalisation of DPRK- Japan relations.

The press conveys news of the Gulf war.

MINJU CHOSON carries an article titled "'Aid' and 'Cooperation' Are Guides to Establishment of Imperialist Domination".

CPC Designates 28 August As 'Day of Youth'

SK0102052991 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0456 GMT 1 Feb 91

[Text] Pyongyang February 1 (KCNA)—Day of youth was instituted in Korea.

A decree of the Central People's Committee of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on the institution of Day of Youth was issued today.

The decree says that August 28 shall be Day of Youth.

August 28 is the day when the great leader President Kim Il-song in the period of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle formed the Young Communist League of Korea (August 28, 1927) which was of epochal significance in the development of the youth movement of Korea.

WPK Praises Efforts of Power Line Workers

SK0502075591 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2100 GMT 31 Jan 91

[Excerpts] A thank-you letter of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] was delivered to the working class and the volunteers of the South Pyongan Provincial Power Transmission and Transformer Complex and the Kaechon District Coal Mining Complex who registered labor exploits in the construction of power transmission line between Tokchon and Kaechon.

The thank-you letter of the party Central Committee thanked the working class, functionaries, and volunteers of the South Pyongan Provincial Power Transmission and Transformer Complex and the Kaechon District Coal Mining Complex who registered great labor exploits in the construction of the power transmission line between Tokchon and Kaechon with warm loyalty to the party and the leader. [passage omitted]

A meeting to deliver the thank-you letter of the WPK Central Committee and to commission the power transmission line between Tokchon and Kaechon was held on the spot on 4 February. Present at the meeting were Comrade So Yun-sok, member of the WPK Central Committee Political Bureau, responsible secretary of the South Pyongan provincial party committee, and chairman of the South Pyongan Provincial People's Committee; the functionaries of the relevant sector; as well as the builders and volunteers who took part in the construction of the power transmission line.

At the meeting Comrade So Yun-sok delivered the thank-you letter of the WPK Central Committee to the working class and volunteers of the South Pyongan Provincial Power Transmission and Transformer Complex and the Kaechon District Coal Mining Complex. [passage omitted]

Kim Il-song University, Achievements Profiled

SK0102000191 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1508 GMT 31 Jan 91

[Text] Pyongyang January 31 (KCNA)—Kim Il-song University has recently succeeded in manufacturing voice-pattern recognition controlled intelligent robots. In recent years the univesity has made valuable scientific and technological successes including the development of high-temperature superconducting material. The piezo-electro-magnetic membrane and carbon dioxide laser resonance coupling copper mirror won the gold at the 18th International Exhibition of Inventions and New Techniques which was held in Geneva last year.

The university has succeeded in valuable researches into 100 odd subjects including super-high-tech scientific researches over the past 40 odd years.

Kim Il-song University, a training centre of native cadres and the highest seat of science and education, is the first people's university in Korea which was founded on October 1, 1946, by the great leader President Kim Il-song.

In order to convey down through generations the imperishable feats performed by the great leader for the country and the people and the great loving care shown by him for the establishment of the university, the Korean people named the university after his august name.

The university occupies an area of 1,560,000 square metres centering around Ryongnam Hill northeast of beautiful Moran Hill in Pyongyang, the capital city of Pyongyang.

It has 15 faculties of social and natural sciences and 90 odd chairs including history, philosophy, economy, atomic energy, automation and chemistry.

There are more than 10 research institutes including the computer and cell engineering institutes and some 50 study rooms and a doctoral institute.

Competent scholars and teachers including Chon Yong-sik (economy), Pak Si-hyong (history), Pak Tae-hun (geology), So Sang-kuk (physics), Cho Chu-kyong (mathematics), and other academicians, doctors and professors are now engaged in education and scientific researches.

The university has a main building (with a total floor space of 13,500 square metres) equipped with good educational facilities, building No. 1 (with a total floor space of 46,000 square metres), building No. 2 (with a total floor space of 52,000 square metres) and other buildings and the scientific library (with a total floor space of 12,000 square metres) with a 2 million book stocking capacity and 1,200-seat reading rooms and study rooms, a natural museum, a publishing house, an optical experimental factory and other auxiliary buildings.

It is also equipped with all conditions for the study and daily life of teachers and students—it has hostels which can accommodate 10,000 students and all kinds of service facilities.

There are many immortal revolutionary relics in the university.

President Kim Il-song gave on-the-spot guidance to the university on more than 100 occasions and gave highly important teachings on more than 500 occasions.

Exhibited in the museum of the revolutionary activities of Comrade Kim Il-song at the university are historical materials showing that he has indicated the road to be followed by the university and bestowed deep solicitude on the students since its founding and thousands of pieces of rare zoological specimens and educational tools and appliances sent by him for education and scientific researches of the university.

The university has entered a new period of efflorescence under the party's guidance.

Dear Comrade Kim Chong-il called at the university on several occasions and gave detailed teachings on educational work, scientific researches and the daily life of teachers and students to make the university the highest seat of chuche-based education and a model university of the country.

Kim Il-song University has now strengthened and developed into a dependable training centre of native cadres.

Doctors and associate doctors in their twenties are being produced from among its students one after another.

Many foreign students from different countries are also studying in the university.

'Many' International Games Slated for Pyongyang

SK0402105591 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1015 GMT 4 Feb 91

[Text] Pyongyang February 4 (KCNA)—Many international games will be held in Korea this year.

Asian regional Group F soccer preliminary round for the 25th Olympic Games is to be held here in August.

And the "Mangyongdae Prize" International Marathon Tournament will be held in April and the second "Pyongyang Cup" international soccer games, the International Diving Competitions and the 8th International Judo Contests in May.

June will see the Tenth International Women's Volleyball Tournament, the Fifth International Freestyle Wrestling Tournament and the 11th International Rhythmic Dance Tournament.

The International Friendship Junior Men's Handball Tournament and the International Gymnastic Competitions are scheduled in July, the 11th Pyongyang International Invitational Table Tennis Tournament and the 11th International Boxing Competitions in August and the Eighth International Shooting Contests and the International Friendship Junior Ice Hockey Tournament in October.

The Second International Weightlifting Tournament and the International Speed Skating Contests will be held in November and December.

This year our sportsmen will compete in scores of international games including the World Women's Soccer Championships and some 20 other world championships events and the 16th World Universiad.

'August 3 Mass Consumption Goods' Production Rises

SK0802105091 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1019 GMT 8 Feb 91

[Text] Pyongyang February 8 (KCNA)—Good-quality August 3 mass consumption goods are being turned out in large quantities in Korea.

Last year 1,800 new workteams and 3,000 new production bases of consumer goods made their appearance in the country.

In the period the output value jumped 20 percent, the basic varieties increased 4,500 and the enlarged varieties 11,500.

Last year, in Pyongyang, 1,100 new production bases were built and several districts became model units in the production of "August 3 mass consumption goods".

Fibre products, daily necessities, electric appliances, goods for cultural use and handicrafts are mass-produced with the use of by-products and wastes from industrial establishments in South Hamgyong, North Pyongan and other provinces.

The production of "August 3 mass consumption goods" began in Korea after dear Comrade Kim Chong-il gave instructions to produce large quantities of mass consumption goods by actively tapping and utilizing home reserves on August 3, 1984.

National Meeting of Trade Union Propagandists Held

SK0202051091 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0438 GMT 2 Feb 91

[Text] Pyongyang February 2 (KCNA)—Measures to powerfully mobilize the workers and trade union members in the fulfillment of the tasks set by the great leader President Kim Il-song in his New Year address were discussed at a two-day national meeting of trade union propagandists here.

The meeting stressed the need to strengthen education of the workers and trade union members in the chuche idea and encourage them to give full play to the spirit of collectivism on the principle of "one for all, and all for one" and resolutely fight against imperialism, the exploiting system and all descriptions of opportunism.

It was stressed at the meeting that political work should be conducted actively among the workers and unionists in order to vigorously continue the mass technical innovation movement, the drive for increased production and economy and the model machine movement at all factories and enterprises.

The meeting noted that in order to improve the ideological work of trade unions, the responsibility and role of the trade union propagandists should be enhanced radically in keeping with the demand of the developing reality.

A letter to the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea was adopted at the meeting.

Status of Provincial Industrial Bases Profiled

Of Pyongyang

SK0102224791 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1502 GMT 1 Feb 91

[Text] Pyongyang February 1 (KCNA)—Pyongyang is a city with comprehensive foundations of industrial production.

There are factories and enterprises of weighty significance in the overall formation of the nation's industries such as machine-building, power, building-materials, textile, foodstuff and daily necessities industries.

The machine-building industry holds a big proportion among them.

The Kim Chong-tae general electric locomotive works meets the needs of the whole country for electric locomotives and coaches.

Besides, there are factories specializing in the production of machine-tools, coal mining machines, weaving machines, building machines and rolling stock.

The Pyongyang thermal power complex is making good service for the industrial establishments and the living of the citizens in the city.

There is a barrage power station on the river Taedong.

Many factories including the October 5 general automation works, the Taedonggang TV set factory and the Moranbong automation instrument factory produce refrigerators, washing machines, electric fans, TV sets and other household utensils and electric and automation instruments.

The Sangwon cement complex holds a big share in the production of cement needed for the vast urban and industrial construction of Pyongyang.

The complex which went into operation in 1989 annually produces millions of tons of cement.

Pyongyang also has the Sunghori cement factory, the Taesong ceramic factory, the Pyongyang August 17 prefab factory, the Pyongyang metal building-materials factory, the Pyongyang general woodworking factory, etc.

Pyongyang is one of the centres of the textile industry in Korea.

The Pyongyang textile combine produces chemical fibre, cotton, silk and other fabrics and yarn.

The Songyo knitwear mill, the Tongdaewon garment factory and many other knitwear and garment factories produce large quantities of various kinds of knitwear and clothes.

There are many large-size light industrial factories including the Pyongyang shoe-making factory, the Pyongyang electric bulb factory, the Pyongyang pharmaceutical plant, the Pyongyang flour-processing combine, the Pyongyang cornstarch factory and the Pyongsong meat-processing factory.

In the past 10 years or more, scores of factories and enterprises have been built in the city to further supplement the foundations of its industrial production.

Of South Pyongan

SK0702164391 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1501 GMT 7 Feb 91

[Text] Pyongyang February 7 (KCNA)—South Pyongan Province is situated in the western part of Korea, contiguous to the capital city of Pyongyang.

The province has powerful central and local industries and developed agriculure.

The great leader President Kim Il-song has taught:

"South Pyongan Province makes up a considerable proportion of our industry and agriculture and has great economic potential."

The great leader has guided South Pyongan Province on the spot nearly 180 times, indicating the road ahead of the province and giving detailed teachings on the ways of carrying out the tasks facing the province.

At an enlarged plenary meeting of the South Pyongan Provincial Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea in December last year he put forward concrete tasks that should be fulfilled in different economic sectors of the province.

South Pyongan Province has many bases of different industries of weighty importance in the general industrial composition of the country.

Mining industry accounts for a big proportion in them.

The coal output holds 60 percent of the nation's total.

In the past ten years Changdong, Sosa, Hanryong and other new coal mines were developed in Anju, Mundok, Sunchon and Pukchang areas which are rich in deposits and promising and the existing coal mines were reconstructed on an expansion basis. The total coal output in the decade leapfrogged 50 percent.

The province holds a big share in the nation's power production.

The Taedonggang power complex, the Pukchang thermal power complex, the Sunchon thermal power plant and many other power stations have been built, creating millions of kw of new power production capacity in 10 years.

The province has a good many minor hydraulic power stations and wind power stations.

More than 100 minor power stations made their appearance in the province in the past two years.

Auto industry has made a rapid development as well.

The production processes of the Sungri general motor works, a large automobile producer, were reconstructed on an expansion basis in recent years, to markedly increase the output of automobiles of various types including 2.5 ton, 10 ton and 25 ton classes.

The province supplies large quantities of cement and calcium silicate bricks and other building materials to socialist construction sites. The Sunchon cement complex annually produces millions of tons of cement and the Anju calcium silicate brick factory hundreds of millions of bricks.

There are a number of chemical factories of nationwide significance.

In recent years the construction of the first phase of the Sunchon vinalon complex, the youth resin bag factory of the Namhung youth chemical complex and its sodium carbonate factory and other chemical factories was completed.

Local industry has also made a fast progress along with central industry.

In the past 10 years 260 local industrial factories have been built or reconstructed on an expansion basis.

The local industry composed of foodstuff, textile, garment, daily consumer goods, paper-making and other sectors are evenly distributed in cities and counties.

Textiles including silk, cotton fabrics and knitted goods annually produced by the local industrial factories in the province amount to millions of metres.

The gross output value of local industry in 1990 was 4.8 times the figure of 1985.

South Pyongan Province is a major granary of the country. Rice accounts for 65 percent of the grain production of the province.

In the past 10 years 30 odd large-size factories, enterprises, coal and ore mines were built and put into operation.

South Pyongan Province is concentrating on the construction of the Nyongwon power station, the second phase of the Sunchon vinalon complex and other objects so as to bring the departmental industrial structure to further perfection.

Of South Hwanghae Province

SK0502151391 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1458 GMT 5 Feb 91

[Text] Pyongyang February 5 (KCNA)—South Hwanghae Province holds an important place in the development of fisheries and sea culture in particular in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The shallow sea of the province including the coastlines of Kangryong, Ongjin and Yongyon peninsulas afford very favorable conditions for seafood breeding.

Tangle which is good for man's health and longevity grows well there, its per hectare output reaching one hundred and several dozen tons.

The tangle produced there has a long stem and a broad and thick leaf, which is good for producing various processed food such as canned food, salad, tea and hard-boiled food.

Large quantities of tangle are exported after meeting the home demand.

The mussel of culture farms goes far beyond the world standard of 5.5 centimeters in annual growth.

The province is actively developing sea culture suitable to its favorable conditions.

The province has Pupo, Ongjin, Pyonghwa, Monggumpo, Kumipo, Ssanggyo and other sea culture stations.

They grow various kinds of seafood such as tangle, laver, undaria pinnatifida, oyster, mussel and clam.

The province has sea culture experience of tens of years and material and technical means.

There is a large tangle sprouting station in the province. It supplies healthy tangle sprouts to tangle farms in the province and over one hundred units across the country.

The proportion of the work done by machines has increased steadily with result that nearly all work including tangle transplantation, transport and processing of cultivated seafood is done with the help of machines.

Provincial culture stations are these days harvesting quantities of sea products including tangle, laver, oyster and mussels.

The provincial fishery administration overfulfilled the January production plan by 29 percent on January 25.

The Pyonghwa sea culture station harvested 2,000 more tons and the Pupo sea culture station 1,700 more tons of tangle than in the same period of last year as of January 29.

An energetic work is afoot in South Hwanghae Province according to state measures to increase the output of laver, tangle, undaria pinnatifida, mussel and other cultivated seafood for the people.

Iron Heading Production Increases Over 1990

SK0102225291 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1458 GMT 1 Feb 91

[Text] Pyongyang February 1 (KCNA)—The output of iron headings is on the rise in Korea.

According to data available, it showed a gain of 150,000 tons in the first month this year above that in the corresponding month last year.

The Musan mining complex, a leading iron headings producer in the northern frontier of the country, overfulfilled its first monthly assignments of this year's plan set about 90 percent above last year.

Regarding it as an important factor of increased production of iron headings to extend the excavation sectors, the complex lengthened them by 1,000 metres last year, to bring into shape a new cutting face with a capacity of millions of tons.

Modern excavating equipment surpassing the capacity of existing major equipment has been supplied by a step of the state, and it pays off profusely at various processes.

Alongside production, the capacity expansion project to boost the output of iron headings is progressing fast.

The new dressing plant with a total floor space of tens of thousands of square meters now under construction will nearly double the ore dressing capacity of the complex.

Mines under the ferrous metal ore mining General Bureau including the Toksong, Tokhyon and Chaeryong mines have lifted the daily iron ore output 20 percent in January above the same period last year.

The Unryul mine carried out in 20 days the first monthly quota of this year's plan set 50 percent higher than last year.

Additional Resevoirs To Be Constructed in 1991

SK0102105691 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1021 GMT 1 Feb 91

[Text] Pyongyang February 1 (KCNA)—Some 90 reservoirs will be built in Korea this year.

These reservoirs which will take shape in highlands far off big rivers are to irrigate paddy and non-paddy fields with the water flowing into them from ravines.

In recent years new irrigation canals extending 800 km were excavated to link the Taedong and Yesong Rivers, Amnok and Taeryong Rivers into a great irrigation network and scores of reservoirs were built in Korea to consolidate the material and technical foundations for the irrigation of paddy and non-paddy fields.

When the ongoing construction of reservoirs has been completed the nation's irrigation will reach a higher level.

South Korea

Official, U.S. Ambassador Discuss Costs of Gulf

SK0802113291 Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN in Korean 8 Feb 91 p 2

[Text] If the war in the Gulf turns out to be a long one, our government is likely to bear an additional share of its costs beyond the $500 million our country has already promised.

In a meeting held on the afternoon of 7 February at the government complex in Kwachon, Yi Sung-yun, deputy premier and minister of the Economic Planning Board, and Donald Gregg, U.S. ambassador to Korea, discussed issues ranging from the Korean Government's additional share of Gulf war expenses, to how to end trade feuds between Korea and the United States, to how to promote cooperation in the Uruguay Round negotiations.

Upon receiving Ambassador Gregg's call, Deputy Premier Yi said: "Those in the front line of the administration institutions are doing their best to promote trade cooperation between our two countries and to keep the causes of trade feuds from recurring. We also plan to educate the people and those in the front line of the administration offices to make them understand the need to open our market to foreign goods."

Hyundai Workers in Iraq Waiting for Exit Visas

SK0802054391 Seoul YONHAP in English 0524 GMT 8 Feb 91

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 8 (OANA-YONHAP)—Ten South Korean employees of Hyundai Engineering and Construction Co. are still stranded in Iraq waiting for exit visas, according to two of their colleagues who arrived back in Korea on Thursday.

Yang Tong-su and Yi Yong-il said Friday that the 10 had fled their work site and were sheltering in Baghdad, Kirkuk, Baqubah and other places throughout Iraq until the Iraqi Government gave them permission to leave.

Baghdad has been without electricity and water since the war began and confusion is growing from serious shortages of daily necessities, the two said. Armed soldiers are frequently on the streets and tension is escalating.

Yang and Yi drove into Iran on a company bus and made their way to Tehran, where they caught a plane home. They said they had exit permits.

The 10 still in Iraq stayed after officials there urged them to remain, citing the importance of the construction project, and Hyundai executives in Korea concurred, but they will leave as soon as they acquire permits, Yang and Yi said.

They were working on a water pumping station in Kirkuk, not on anything related to the Iraqi war effort, according to Hyundai.

A Hyundai spokesman said it was impossible to communicate with the workers in Iraq but the company was continuing to send messages to them via shortwave radio broadcasts. They are most likely to leave through Iran, he said.

Firms Told To Find New Markets Due to Gulf War

SK0802031091 Seoul YONHAP in English 0124 GMT 8 Feb 91

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 8 (OANA-YONHAP)—Companies that have lost overseas buyers because of the Gulf war should turn to oil exporting nations in Southeast Asia and Latin America and to Eastern Europe and Africa, Trade and Industry Minister Yi Pong-so said Friday.

The government will find a way to help companies that are short of money and raw materials due to the war and will rebuild Korea's industrial structure in preparation for high oil prices, Yi told a breakfast meeting of 100 businessmen and scientists.

War-induced hardships that must be solved first are price fluctuations and raw material shortages in the petrochemical and chemical textile industries, sluggish exports of automobiles and home electronic goods and shrinking domestic demand, he said.

As of Tuesday, 207 Korean companies had lost 606 million U.S. dollars because of the war.

The meeting was sponsored by the private Korea Economy and Science Institute, run by Ho Man-ki. Ho belongs to the opposition Party for Peace and Democracy.

North Receives Letter Requesting Visit By South

SK0802061591 Seoul YONHAP in English 0559 GMT 8 Feb 91

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 8 (OANA-YONHAP)—A South Korean liaison officer delivered a letter to North Korea signed by Speaker Pak Chun-kyu and accepted letters addressed to three opposition parties Friday morning.

"The 85th Pyongyang general meeting of the Inter-Parliamentary Union [IPU] will be a forum not only to enhance inter-Korean fraternity but let the world know it, so we request more Korean assemblymen and reporters cross into Pyongyang through the truce village of Panmunjom without difficulty," Pak said in his letter to Yang Hyong-sop, the chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly.

The letters from Pyongyang propose "a political conference for national reunification." There was no letter to the ruling party.

No Promises To Punish Housing Scandal Culprits

SK0802031891 Seoul YONHAP in English 0236 GMT 8 Feb 91

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 8 (YONHAP)—President No Tae-u said Friday he would not tolerate any irregularities in the handling of the Suso district housing project and promised to punish all the guilty parties.

No took up the issue in a meeting with Kim Young-sam, his No. 2 in the ruling Democratic Liberal Party, and ordered an extensive probe.

"Not a trace of doubt shall remain after a full investigation by the Board of Audit and Inspection (BAI) and the prosecution," he told Kim.

There is a growing movement in the government to scrap the Suso housing plan, which limits apartment sales to members of housing cooperatives.

An interim report Friday on the BAI investigation said both the Construction Ministry and the Seoul city government were at fault in ruling that the district could be developed as a residential area.

Prime Minister No Chae-pong late Thursday instructed government offices to reorganize the land development plan for Suso.

The prosecution, meanwhile, is digging for signs that members of the National Assembly Construction Committee took bribes from Hanbo group in exchange for pushing through the Suso district housing project, and is looking into charges that a former presidential secretary for culture and sports, Chang Pyong-cho, was bribed by Hanbo.

Chang, said to be a close acquaintance of Hanbo group Chairman Chong Tae-su, stirred suspicion that the Presidential Office was involved in the scandal when it was found he attended a Seoul city meeting on the Suso project.

President No Tae-u accepted his resignation Friday morning, a Chongwadae spokesman said.

Chang resigned to take responsibility for the Suso scandal and indicated he is willing to be investigated, the spokesman said.

Chang, according to prosecution sources, is on the first list for questioning. The list also includes Chung, Vice Seoul Mayor Yun Paek-young and Rep. Yi Tae-sup of the ruling party.

Prosecutor-general Cheong Ku-yeong told reporters Thursday that the Central Investigation Department was gathering documents and materials on the Suso district housing plan.

He did not specify when an official investigation would begin, saying the timing would depend on the progress of information gathering.

"But we do not have to wait for the results of the probe by the Board of Audit and Inspection, and we will expand our independent probe if any evidence of illegal activities is discovered," he said.

Prosecutors are analyzing the minutes of a Construction Committee meeting on the Suso housing project and related materials, and have acquired additional documents from agencies such as the National Tax Administration, sources said.

The investigation has been divided into four areas to delve into the bribery charges, the background of Hanbo's land purchases and the gathering of the 26 housing cooperatives for the Suso housing project.

The sources said the prosecution may soon seize Hanbo's financial records and trace Chong's personal bank dealings.

No's Link to Scandal Examined

SK0802100891 Seoul YONHAP in English 0915 GMT 8 Feb 91

[Article by Yi Tong-min: "Chongwadae Facing Uphill Battle To Keep No Out of Housing Scandal"—YONHAP headline]

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 8 (YONHAP)—South Korean President No Tae-u is being drawn into a scandal that may tarnish his political image, despite his aides' frantic efforts to keep him out of it.

There have been other controversies and he waded through them, but none was quite like this. The labyrinth of incidents begins with an apartment construction plan on an expensive plot of land in a greenbelt and weaves its way into the president's office, catching his secretary in its tentacles of suspicion for influence peddling.

Chang Pyong-cho is now No's former secretary for culture and sports as he resigned Friday to take responsibility for the Suso housing scandal, but the president is well aware that Chang's resignation will not end the suspicion that "someone far higher" was deeply involved.

A big blow to Chongwadae, the Presidential Office, was the bombshell revelation Wednesday by Rep. Kim Wun-hwan of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party that Kim

Chong-in, the senior presidential secretary for economic affairs, personally called the chairman of the National Assembly Construction Committee and pressed for a decision in favor of the housing cooperatives.

The senior secretary, according to Kim, said "a superior official" was deeply interested in the Suso housing issue.

Kim claimed the committee chairman told him about the call when he tried to raise objections about the committee decision on Suso in a meeting Feb. 1.

Also pointing to the top are the names that are being linked with the Suso scandal as they, to varying degrees, are connected to No.

Hanbo group Chairman Chong Tae-su, suspected of bribing any number of people from city hall up to Chongwadae to arrange the Suso housing project, knows Chang from his active participation in sports organizations.

Chong is president of the Korea Hockey Association.

The friendship between Chang and Seoul Mayor Pak Se-chik dates back to 1986, when they worked together on the Seoul Olympic Organizing Committee (SLOOC). Pak was chairman.

Chang and No date back further, also from SLOOC, when No was chairman before being replaced by Pak and moving on to higher things.

Chongwadae officials have concluded that it is no longer enough to passively answer questions if No and his government are to escape the crisis unscathed.

No fed public suspicions by failing to make a speedy and sturdy response when the Suso scandal broke. The local press picked up the story at the weekend, and by Monday they had re-printed a letter from the presidential secretary-general asking the Seoul mayor for "discreet measures" in favor of allotting the Suso apartments to housing cooperatives instead of selling them on the open market.

It was already late Wednesday when No ordered "a thorough investigation" by the Board of Audit and Inspection (BAI) of city hall and all involved ministries. People were outraged that the order was not given to the prosecution, and No was accused of insincerety, allegedly trying to downscale the investigation and using the BAI investigation to appease public anger.

The office of National Tax Administration and the office of bank supervision and examination stepped in after No's orders to BAI, saying they would look into Hanbo's books for evidence of tax evasion and illegal bank transactions.

Chongwadae always seemed a step behind, racing to douse the fires in the latest controversy, and the scandal has now grown to the point that the late entry of the prosecution and Chang's resignation fall far short of a satisfactory solution.

The year is long yet, but No has already been through series of critical moments—the college admissions scam, in which the professors of prestigious universities were charged with taking bribes from parents in exchange for admissions, and the junket scandal, in which three lawmakers accepted some 73,000 U.S. dollars from business organizations to finance overseas trips.

Ruling party members and government officials are aghast at the suggestion that No was directly involved in pressuring the city hall and the National Assembly to approve the Suso project.

If the president really wanted to exert influence, he need not have used a go-between such as luckless secretary Chang, and even if No was not involved, the damage is done. The question for Chongwadae officials is how much credibility the president and his government can salvage.

Workers Stage 'All-Out' Strike at Daewoo Shipyard

SK0802094991 Seoul YONHAP in English 0744 GMT 8 Feb 91

["News analysis" by Kim Hyong-kun]

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 8 (OANA-YONHAP)—Fifty workers at Daewoo Shipyard on Koje Island perched atop a 104-meter-high "goliath crane" and declared war on management as the year's first all-out strike at a big business got under way Friday.

Barricades of forklifts and steel plates were set up at five gates to the nation's second-biggest shipyard in preparation for an attack by riot troopers, as has happened at every major labor dispute since 1987.

The walkout came after an 11-day job action by nearly 10,000 union members and is sending shock waves across the nation. Daewoo Shipbuilding and Heavy Machinery, a subsidiary of the Daewoo business group, was a test case for the nation's labor movement in 1990.

Management, which has kept the canteens open and the commuter buses running, is reportedly considering shutting down the yard and suing union officials for obstruction of manufacturing.

Conventional club and tear gas tactics are unlikely, however, as labor and management negotiators have agreed to keep talking until Feb. 13, a day before the start of the lunar new year holidays.

After pre-dawn consultations with Labor Ministry officials, the police decided to stay out until Daewoo management officially invite them in.

The primary cause of the conflict is the "no work, no pay" policy held by the management. Next come the union's demand for an annual bonus of six months wages and paying shop stewards for time spent on union activities. Of 132 issues at stake, agreement has been reached on 112 since collective bargaining began in November.

The "no work, no pay" question poses the biggest challenge to Korea's unions and employers as Labor Minister Choe Pyong-yol declared Friday morning he would uphold the principle at any cost. The unions say Choe is trying to suppress the labor movement, but management sides with the government and says it is a matter of principle beyond negotiation.

If labor and management at Daewoo fail to compromise before the tacitly agreed Wednesday deadline, the riot troopers will probably go in and arrest thousands of workers.

That is unlikely, however, and the strike is almost sure to end before the holiday with the union willing to compromise, insiders say.

One reason for predicting an early end to the strike, they say, is that the union sees it simply as a stepping stone to a full-scale struggle over wages in the spring. For the past two years, there was no pay raise at the shipyard, which was bailed out by the government in March 1989.

Company officials seem to believe that the union decided to go on strike to silence hardliners and to increase support by giving union members time to visit their home towns for family reunions during the holidays.

Some unionized workers say that they are leading the nation's "democratic labor forces" in a struggle for a say in the management. Both the government and employers of major enterprises outlaw such a bid.

It is no coincidence that Choe's high-pitched statement came on the same day the strike began, they argue. Choe said the government would never allow labor to interfere in management rights.

Whether the dispute is due to union strategy or the alleged stubbornness of the management, and whether it is over democracy or, most probably, money, it will deal a severe blow to the shipyard, which has just seen its first profit after years of deficit.

Assembly Adjourns Early Without Acting on Reforms

SK0802093491 Seoul YONHAP in English 0838 GMT 8 Feb 91

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 8 (YONHAP)—The National Assembly adjourned a day early Friday without acting on "reform bills" containing revisions to the National Security Law and the law on the Agency for National Security Planning.

The session was to end on Saturday, but the final session was cancelled as it is the first anniversary of the inauguration of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP).

The Party for Peace and Democracy (PPD) had demanded that the sitting be extended for 10 days to handle the reform bills, which were supposed to be the main purpose of the sitting, and to deal with the Suso district housing scandal.

The DLP suggested holding another special sitting instead as a four-day bank holiday falls next week for lunar new year.

The DLP and PPD whips agreed to call an extraordinary session as soon as possible to handle the reform bills.

PPD floor leader Kim Yong-pae demanded that the National Assembly Steering Committee handle a motion to invoke the National Assembly's right to investigate the administration in regard to the use of the Korea Foreign Trade Association's export promotion account and the Suso housing scandal.

DLP floor leader Kim Yun-hwan turned him down flat.

Before going into recess, the Assembly passed seven bills and motions and a resolution that called on North Korea's parliament to cooperate in confirming the fate of 10 million members of separated families in the two Koreas.

* December Cabinet Reshuffle, Reactions Analyzed

912C0088A Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 27 Dec 90 p 3

[By Kim Chung-sik]

[Text]

Media Announced Reshuffle Prior to Government

The 27 December cabinet reshuffle is known to have taken place earlier than originally planned because of the premature broadcast by the media. President No, who had originally intended to finalize the Cabinet reshuffle sometime this weekend, decided to finalize it on the 26th, and made an announcement on the 27th.

The president's spokesman Yi Su-chong told the press, after the official announcement of the reshuffle in the morning of the 27: "The reshuffle was made earlier than originally planned at the end of the year because of the media," and "The unprecedented selection of the presidential chief secretary as prime minister is aimed at continuing the president's policy on the northern diplomacy and democratization."

One Chongwadae [Presidential Office] source said that President No called his Chief Secretary No Chae-pong and his Adviser for Political Affairs Choe Chang-yun to his main office, right after the dinner party for minister and deputy-minister couples in the Guest House on the evening of 26 December, and finalized the selection of the new cabinet members, based on the information provided so far from various sources, including his secretariats and the Agency for National Security Planning.

After finalizing the reshuffle around 2300, the president handed over the names to his chief secretary and asked him to immediately call each individual selected.

Chief Secretary No first informed Prime Minister Kang Yong-hun, of the reshuffle and the details of it and conveyed the president's praise for his excellent work during his tenure. No then informed other new cabinet members selected by the president.

Presidential Adviser for Political Affairs Choe Chang-yun, who was selected as the new minister of the information agency, informed the following of the reshuffle: Kim Yong-sam, executive chairman of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP); Kim Chong-pil and Pak Tae-chun, DLP co-chairmen; Chong Sun-tok, DLP secretary general; and the members of the main opposition Party for Peace and Democracy (PPD).

No and Choe went home at 0100 on 27 December after finishing calling newly appointed cabinet members.

Pak Chol-on, the newly appointed sports minister, was indirectly informed of his appointment while visiting Japan. Pak called the new Prime Minister-designate No at 0830 on 27 December from Japan to congratulate him, and was formally informed of his own appointment from No.

President's Plan Finalized Before Visiting the Soviet Union

The current reshuffle is known to have started from late November. It has been disclosed that the president decided to replace the prime minister right before he left for a summit meeting in the Soviet Union on 13 December, after Prime Minister Kang's repeated refusal to the president's requests to stay on.

President No hinted to his chief secretary of his intention to appoint him as prime minister right before he left for Moscow. The president explained his basic principles for a cabinet reshuffle to his chief secretary and asked him to stay home to start the selection process while he was visiting the Soviet Union.

Chief Secretary No then met with So Tong-kwon, director of the agency for national security planning, to inform him of the president's intention and asked for his help in selecting new cabinet members. It is known that the chief secretary started the selection with Kim Yong-il, presidential senior advisor for civil affairs, from those whom President No had in mind, and contacted them.

Most of the candidates for new cabinet members were already selected at that time. When the president returned from the Soviet Union, a list of the candidates was reported to him.

It is also known that the Agency for National Security Planning provided its independent opinion about the candidates to the president.

Because of these advance preparations, the final selection on 26 December was made in a relatively short period of time. At the last moment, Sports Minister Pak Chol-on and Director of Patriots and Veterans Affairs Agency Min Kyong-pae were recommended by the president.

Although the final selection was made by the president, it is known that most of the new members were included in the recommended lists by his chief secretary and the director of the National Security Planning Agency.

Presidential Spokesman Yi Su-chong disclosed: "The president had several discussions, based on the recommended list, with his chief secretary since he came back from the Soviet Union. Because of this the final selection was made without any difficulty."

Chaos Due to Abrupt Announcement

Since the cabinet reshuffle was made without prior notice to both incumbents and newly appointed members, most of those involved in the reshuffle were in a chaotic mood, cancelling predetermined schedules.

Yi Chin, secretary general of the prime minister, who also found out about the reshuffle only on the morning of 27 December, hurriedly called for meetings with other secretaries and coordinators. Yi had to cancel the meeting, "[The Prime Minister's] Dialogue with the People," which was scheduled at 1000, expecting 272 invited guests, as well as the regular cabinet meeting scheduled in the afternoon.

The outgoing Prime Minister Kang Yong-hun, wearing a scarf and black coat, came to work at 0855 and joked with the newsmen taking photographs, "You should take pictures of the new prime minister rather than the outgoing one."

Officials in the prime minister's office mentioned that "although we felt that the prime minister will be replaced, we had such short notice to cancel the plans in advance."

Personnel officers in the Ministry of Government Administration were also confused without knowing about the new cabinet members until its announcement. One official in the personnel office explained: "Since former cabinet members are special presidential appointees, they need not submit resignations."

Congratulatory Calls to the New Prime Minister-Designate No

Kim Yong-sam, DLP's executive chairman, was informed of the reshuffle by So Tong-kwon, director of the National Security Planning Agency, who visited Kim in his house in Sangdo-dong at 2300 on the evening of 26

December. Kim made a congratulatory phone call to the new Prime Minister-designate No in the morning of the 27th.

Kim responded to the rumor of an uncomfortable relationship with Prime Minister-designate No due to last October's incident of the lost secret document [signed by three DLP chairmen allegedly supporting the parliamentary cabinet system as a form of the next government] by asking: "How can the relationship between the president's chief secretary and the executive chairman of the ruling party be awkward?" "Since the new prime minister-designate has enough experience in administration from working as senior presidential advisor on political affairs and as chief secretary, and he can read the president's mind very well, I believe he can perform his new assignment successfully," Kim said.

Kim showed a somewhat indifferent reaction to the appointment of Pak Chol-on as sports minister by saying: "The position of minister may not have to be related to one's specialty."

Reshuffle Interpreted as Change of the Guards

The former ruling Democratic Justice Party (DJP) faction within the current ruling DLP showed a sensitive reaction to No's capacity as prime minister and to the reappointment of Pak Chol-on as a cabinet member. Kim Yun-whan, DLP floor leader, asked the newsmen: "What is your opinion on No's capacity as prime minister?" He also indirectly answered the question on Pak's reappointment by saying: "Somebody told me that Pak was given a nonpolitical position as sports minister in order to save Pak while safeguarding Kim Yong-sam's position as well."

Senior national assemblymen, who have strong attachments to a change of the guards by the younger generation, analyzed in their favor that the appointment of the prime minister in his 50's is aimed at the same vein.

The former Reunification Democratic Party (RDP) faction within the DLP showed an unhappy reaction to the exclusion of the faction's boss, Kim Yong-sam's influence in the reshuffle process, and to special appointees and the reappointment of Pak Chol-on.

The DLP Co-Chairman Kim Chong-pil emphasized the fact that the reshuffle is the president's unique authority saying: "Since the president wants to work with these people, who can argue with him?"

Government Stresses Economic Policy of Exports

* Given 'Top Priority'

912C0084A Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean
21 Dec 90 p 3

[Article by Pae In-chun: "Recovery of Export Competitiveness Is the Government's Top Priority"]

[Text] The 1991 economic management plan published by the government on 21 December focuses, in a nutshell, on "reactivation of industrialization programs" and "recovery of a sound growth."

The plan dwells on the nation's economic policy task to boost competitiveness in the manufacturing industry as a priority over everything else, strongly reflecting the government's will for shifting the current growth structure relying on excessive consumption back to that centering on production.

The plan also persuasively lists upgraded social infrastructure and higher rates of savings as chief interim tasks for the recovery of competitiveness and a sound growth.

On the other hand, it contains few measures to promote economic equity and equilibrium, reaffirming the team color of the Yi Sung-yun economic team giving priority to real growth.

The preceding economic team led by Cho Sun in its 1990 economic management plan emphasized that "if a sustained growth is to be attained, frictions among the people over equity and distribution must be rooted out." In contrast, the Yi Sung-yun team presents an approach reversing priorities by stating that "to regain competitiveness that has diminished in the course of pursuing economic democracy and equity, is our key task in achieving economic stability."

The government also cites price stability as a major prerequisite for the 1991 economic management, giving it a "high place" on the priority list. Nevertheless, it has failed to show a clear-cut resolve or measure to stem the prevailing inflationary psychology.

While stating in the plan that it "will see that a good wage-price cycle takes structural root on the basis of price stability," the government is actually fanning the inflationary psychology in public utilities areas with planned increases in the rates and charges, making it doubtful whether it really can keep the 1991 price increases at a eight-percent to nine-percent level as stated.

Some observe that if the setbacks in equity policies should result in adding fuel to fears of high prices, and if, as the government notes in the plan, such factors as the feared laxity in the stability atmosphere during the elections for the local autonomy system as well as difficulties in labor-management relations and wage negotiations should become realities, it will jeopardize the "remedial effect" itself of the government policy of regaining competitiveness in the manufacturing industry.

They also note the weakness of the plan in showing domestic measures related to the GATT Uruguay Round talks, the Persian Gulf crisis, ROK-U.S. trade frictions and other difficulties in international economic relations.

With regard to trade frictions, the plan summarily states that the promised market-opening will be carried out. However, it says nothing about what our side will actively try to gain in return.

While listing measures for a competitive manufacturing industry in every detail, the plan is negligent with prescriptive scenarios for dealing with international variables that virtually determine the future of our economy. This fact is indicative of deficiencies in the international sensitivity on the part of policy makers themselves.

Domestically, despite the arrival of a decentralization era as seen in the elections to form the local assemblies scheduled for the coming spring, the 1991 economic management plan totally fails to show the direction of the economic sector in minimizing side effects of the local autonomy system, and in revitalizing the local economy with balance.

In this respect, the plan shows nothing beyond stating that "if the enforcement of the local autonomy system should result in laxity in the socioeconomic stability atmosphere, we fear that it will lead to proliferation of the inflationary psychology."

While thus giving the impression that the government is preoccupied with microscopic interests and unable to see the "forests" of the national economy, the 1991 economic management plan highlights the government's option for beginning with regaining competitiveness in the manufacturing industry as a means to restore an "atmosphere of economic awareness" among the people of all strata. This option is persuasive.

It is so because there have been signs of our economy departing from, and quitting, the industrialization line that has been the greatest driving force in bringing the per-capita national income to the peak of $5,000 and keeping it at that level to date.

Also, it is a fact that in recent years, the social atmosphere of diligence has rapidly disappeared, giving way to the rising trends of indolence, extravagance, and excessive consumption.

In this situation, a considerably large number of enterprises have been forced to close down plants against their will because of manpower shortages.

Under our fatal economic structure in which foreign trade accounts for 90 percent to 100 percent of the overall international balance of payment, the Korean economy failed to carry on the surplus era that had lasted for four years, 1986-89 by registering $2 billion in trade deficits in 1990, damping hopes of Korea becoming a creditor nation.

This shows that our exports have reached the limits in their competitiveness in international markets, and that as long as they remain at their present levels of competitiveness, it is impossible to expect a sustained growth through exports any longer.

Under these circumstances, it is appropriate for the government to plan a concentrated use of financial resources, which are limited, on the manufacturing industry.

Early upgrading of social infrastructure such as highways, ports, and harbors is as urgent as immediate, direct support for the manufacturing industry itself.

There have been many criticisms, however, that despite the often-repeated government announcements, urgent measures—such as those for the upgrading of social infrastructure, resolution of manpower shortages, expanded supply of land for plants, acceleration of technological developments, and for official support to plant-and-equipment investments—have not been implemented satisfactorily.

This situation is seen as having been caused chiefly by abrasive quarrels over jurisdiction between economic departments, by the bureaucratic climate of being preoccupied with departmental interests, and by the easygoing bureaucratic practice of making plans but giving them no aftercare.

Hence, the 1991 economic management plan will likely show results only when a broad consensus is formed among all the economic entities and when it is combined with the government's efforts to accomplish its policy intent.

Comic Book Seen As Anti-Imports

SK3001013491 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 30 Jan 91 p 6

[From "Thoughts of the Times" column by Kim Chae-il: "Comic Book Incident and Its Lesson"]

[Text] A Korean comic book has created an international stir, reflecting the current state of trade relations between Korea and the United States. Leading U.S. newspapers have run stories on the comic book, claiming it is designed to encourage Koreans to boycott American farm products.

The National Agricultural Cooperatives Federation (NACF) published 700,000 copies of the controversial comic book and distributed them to primary schools across the country at the end of last October.

On Nov. 14, The Wall Street Journal ran the headline "Detroit Could Go Hire Garfield To Claw the Tires of a Hyundai" and was followed by other major newspapers: The Journal of Commerce, "Comic Books Spread Anti-Import Message"; The New York Times, "Trade Talks Will Continue in Informal Settings"; The Chicago Tribune, "Koreans Buy Pitch Against U.S. Goods"; The Washington Post, "South Korea Wages War Over Imports."

The media insisted that the publication and distribution of the comic book is part of a Korean campaign to boycott foreign products, which they report was initiated by the government.

According to a spokesman for the NACF, 12 representatives of the cooperatives from across the nation gathered at the NACF headquarter in July, 1989, and decided to publish the comic book as a means of waging a "Buy Korean Products" campaign.

Less than two weeks after the book's distribution, Ralph B. Gifford, director of the U.S. Agricultural Trade Office, visited the NACF to protest the contents of the comic book. He complained that the book alleged that cancercausing Alar was found in American grapefruits and U.S. agricultural imports are treated with radioactivity and antiseptics. It also incited racism, he asserted.

Among his complaints are a debatable argument on whether the American grapefruits are harmful or not. On the other hand, there are also complaints unacceptable to most of Koreans. Let me take an example described in the comic book. When students return to class from summer vacation, their teacher jokingly asks a suntanned boy what African country he is from, and the students burst into laughter. The U.S. calls this racism.

Why does the comic book matter and why does the U.S. react so vehemently? I think that the argument results from a lack of understanding and the cultural differences between these two countries.

The NACF and the U.S. Embassy have different views about the intention of the comic book. NACF officials said that the book is in line with the "Buy Korean Products" movement, but U.S. officials seem to understand it as a "Boycott American Products" campaign.

A spokesman for the NACF, emphasizing the "pure" intention, expressed his regret over U.S. misunderstanding. He said, "It's very natural for us to tell juveniles about the difficult situation in rural areas and inspire children with the consciousness of using Korean products. That's just the reason for the existence of the NACF."

However, Agricultural Counselor George J. Pope of the U.S. Embassy argued that he "absolutely accepts" the "Buy Korean Products" campaign, but the comic book apparently contains the "anti-import" content. In July, 1989, when the NACF notified the U.S. Embassy of the planned launching of the "Buy Korean Products" campaign, the embassy strongly warned them not to foment a boycott of foreign products, Pope recalled. He went on to say that he was "extremely sensitive and upset" at the comic book. "It may not be offensive to Korean people but it's offensive to Americans. So it cannot be excessive response."

The two sides have different definitions of the NACF itself as to whether it is independent from the government. The U.S. side seems to think that the Korean government might have advised the NACF to publish the comic book. NACF officials assert the independence of the biggest agricultural organization, citing the fact that its president was elected "directly" by thousands of representatives last year. Gifford retorted, "No one sees the NACF as an organization totally independent from the government control."

NACF officials said they believe the U.S. Embassy has incited the American press to exaggerate this situation despite strong denial by U.S. officials.

The comic book incident, anyway, betrays the present standing of the tense Korea-U.S. trade relationship. The comic book provided the U.S. a good chance to propagandize "an example of Korean protectionism." The NACF, for its part, was inexperienced in delivering its message.

The NACF and other relevant organizations, including consumer groups, should be careful not to irritate trade partners with the use of provocative wording but focus on enlightening people efficiently. We now live in an open world.

Bank To Underwrite Export Insurance

SK0802095091 Seoul YONHAP in English 0842 GMT 8 Feb 91

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 8 (YONHAP)—The Export-Import Bank of Korea was given the green light Friday to begin underwriting export insurance for shipments to the Soviet Union and six countries in Eastern Europe between April and June.

The Trade and Industry Ministry said the bank may underwrite the whole amount if a shipment is backed by a letter of credit [L/C] but set limits on other forms because of foreign exchange risks and the limited size of the export insurance fund.

Ceilings were set at 100 million U.S. dollars for non-L/C exports to the Soviet Union and 60 million dollars to Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Yugoslavia.

An exporter with whole turnover insurance can expect the bank's support on a quota based on individual export volume, use of export insurance and risk manageability.

The Ministry will adjust the limits and quotas before July based on trends.

Moscow To Discuss ROK Exports

SK0802084991 Seoul YONHAP in English 0834 GMT 8 Feb 91

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 8 (YONHAP)—South Korea and the Soviet Union will hold working-level talks in Moscow on Feb. 25 to discuss the quantities and priorities of consumer goods to be sent to the Soviet Union, South Korean Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok said Friday.

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"The talks will focus on what quantities of 69 consumer goods such as refrigerators, washing machines and television sets Korea can supply to the Soviet Union and how both governments can set the priorities on 18 production installation investment projects for soap, socks and sports shoes," Yi said.

The working-level meeting follows the Korea-Soviet Government talks in Seoul Jan. 16 at which it was agreed to activate mutual economic cooperation.

The Korean delegation will be led by Deputy Trade and Industry Minister Pak Yong-to and the deputy minister of external economy will head the Soviet delegation.

The two governments plan to have shipping talks in Moscow Feb. 25-27 to discuss the opening of a regular container ship route between Pusan and Vostochniy, and will meet in Seoul in the middle of March to conclude an air agreement.

Expanded Imports Proposed To Curb Inflation

SK0102062091 Seoul YONHAP in English 0536 GMT 1 Feb 91

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 1 (YONHAP)—The South Korean Government will expand imports of some agricultural, fisheries and livestock products to slow a spiralling of prices, the Economic Planning Board (EPB) said Friday.

The government will increase imports if prices have soared or shortages are expected because agricultural products headed January's price rises, the steepest since June 1981.

Consumer prices jumped 2.1 percent in January—4.7 percent for fish, 4.3 percent for meat and 2.5 percent for vegetables.

Due for a boost are imports of beef, pork, yellow corvina, Alaskan pollack, squid, mackerel, sesame and peanuts.

To stabilize beef prices, the government will increase imports in the first quarter. This year's import target is 84,000 tons.

A plan will be drafted soon for imports of pork from Taiwan. EPB said 3,000 tons of Alaskan pollack will be imported from Norway and other countries by the end of April and 6,500 tons of Alaskan pollack from North Korea.

The government approved a plan to import Alaskan pollack from North Korea late last year but no deal has been made yet.

By the end of March, 3,000 tons of squid will be imported from Japan and other nations and 300 tons of yellow corvina from China by Feb. 15. Government plans include 3,000 tons of mackerel and 2,000 tons of saurel by the end of April.

The government also is to import sesame, peanut, red pepper, garlic and onion if that is judged to be necessary. An official said the government would stabilize agricultural prices by promptly offsetting shortages with imports.

He said imports would not affect farmers and the government has repeatedly pledged to control agricultural imports to protect Korean farmers.

Government To Supply Rice as Aid to Mongolia

SK0802135591 Seoul YONHAP in English 1346 GMT 8 Feb 91

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 8 (YONHAP)—South Korea has decided to supply 1,000 tons of rice in a grant-type aid to Mongolia suffering from a food shortage recently, Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok said Friday.

"The first 300 tons will be sent by air next week," Yi said. "The Mongolian Government called on the Korean Embassy there Jan. 25 for an immediate food aid."

He said the grant attests to Seoul's support to Mongolian effort to reform its economy into a market system.

Mongolia, dependent on import from North Korea and the Soviet Union for most of its rice needs, has been in a food crisis recently because the neighboring Countires are lacking in provisions themselves.

Joint British-ROK Firms To Join Libyan Project

SK3001030591 Seoul YONHAP in English 0222 GMT 30 Jan 91

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 30 (YONHAP)—The Energy and Resources Ministry said Wednesday it has approved a group of five Korean firms' plans to partake in an oil development project in Libya in conjunction with a British company.

The Korean companies have a 50 percent stake in the drilling—12.5 percent each for the state-run Korea Petroleum Development Corp., Daewoo Corp., Hyundai Corp., 7.5 percent from Mazuko Enterprise and 5 percent from Daesung Industrial Co., while Lasmo [as received] International of Britain has the rest.

The NC 174 ground oil mining bloc, 750 kilometers southeast of Tripoli, is assumed to have oil as vast deposits were found in nearby blocs by Romania and Bulgaria. The NC 173 mining bloc is in the sea 600 kilometers east of Tripoli.

Romanian Envoy Comments On North, State Visits

SK3001021591 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 30 Jan 91 p 2

[Report by staff reporter Kim Hye-won]

[Text] The North Korean leadership has shown a change in its attitude toward the diplomatic corps in Pyongyang in an apparent attempt to get out of its diplomatic isolation, Amb. Isidor Urian of Romania said.

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He said high-ranking North Korean officials, who had been reluctant to meet foreign envoys since the sweeping reforms in many East European countries, are now accessible.

"I believe the North Korean leadership now realizes that North Korea has been overwhelmed by South Korea in almost every aspect and that it needs better relations with other countries for survival," said the envoy yesterday.

Amb. Urian, who had served as a chancellor at the Romanian Embassy in Pyongyang for nine years, said in fluent Korean both South and North Koreans totally lack mutual understanding and that will surely cloud Korea's reunification prospects.

South Korean students he met here in Seoul during the last five months seem "idealistic" in their views on North Korean society. Some of them believe that North Koreans still live like they used to in the 1950s and 1960s.

"They were sympathetic to North Koreans but knew very little about realities in North Korea," said the envoy who was assigned to Seoul in July last year.

The situation is even worse in North Korea, he said. Despite their unusual fervor for unification, North Koreans he met in Pyongyang did not have any concrete ideas about unification, Amb. Urian said.

"They talk about unification and sometimes cry for unification simply because they were told to do so," he said.

His extensive experience in North Korean matters, however, makes him believe that the North Korean leadership has given up its wild ambition to communize the South by force.

"They now seem to realize that it is impossible to defeat the South, which is superior to the North in most fields," Urian said.

But the envoy did not expect the North Korean authorities to abandon the closed-door policy all of a sudden for fear of being overthrown like other leaderships in East European countries.

The North Korean public is not ready to push a revolution, either, he said.

Therefore, the ambassador suggested that South and North Korea take a step-by-step approach toward the issue of unification by promoting exchanges of people.

Turning to relations between Seoul and Bucharest, the first envoy from Romania in Seoul said lack of mutual understanding between the two peoples has been an important barrier in developing bilateral ties. The two set up diplomatic relations in March, 1990.

The absence of contacts between Korea and Romania during the last four decades has made the two peoples ignorant of each other, he said.

"We are interested in developing our relations, economic relations in particular, but frankly speaking the relations are still at an exploratory stage," the Romanian envoy said.

The Seoul and Bucharest governments are working for framing the relations by signing accords and encouraging private exchanges in various fields, he said.

Last year they concluded agreements on trade, investment protection and cooperation in science and technology. They will sign accords on aviational cooperation, avoidance of double taxation and cultural exchanges soon.

The two governments are also tapping the possibility of exchange visits by their leaders including the heads of state this year, the envoy said.

"I do hope of discussions of such political and economic exchanges so far would bear fruit this year," he said.

Burmese Ambassador Presents Credentials 31 January

BK0202103491 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 0630 GMT 2 Feb 91

[Text] The ministry of foreign affairs issued a report today that U Tin Win, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar [Burma] to the Republic of Korea, presented his credentials to Mr. No Tae-U, president of the Republic of Korea, in Seoul on 31 January 1991.

Burma

Saw Maung Addresses Ruling Council 4 Feb

BK0402170491

[Editorial Report] Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese at 1305 GMT on 4 February begins carrying a report on a meeting held between the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC] and regional law and order restoration councils in Rangoon today. Although no details of the meeting were given, the report contains a 62-minute recorded speech of SLORC Chairman Senior General Saw Maung. In his speech Saw Maung recalls the SLORC issuing Order No. 1/90 to set the timetable for drafting a state constitution which was rejected by the National League for Democracy [NLD]. He notes the NLD issuing the Gandhi Declaration following a meeting at the Gandhi Hall and other statements asking for the transfer of power. Saw Maung says the matter concerning the election expenses of candidates and complaints filed with the courts about elections in certain constituencies have yet to be cleared.

On political parties he says, "Political parties will come and go but the defense services and the nation remain inseparable. It is essential to understand that the country will be ruined once the Armed Forces are destroyed." He says this is known to the people in the political parties and "the defense services will not put up with any attempt by the parties to fight or divide the military for the sake of gaining power."

He says, "We made political parties sign Order No. 1/90 [that they would abide by that order] because they had been doing the wrong things. They signed it in our presence, and they may say that they were afraid. But when out of sight, they do things quite contrary to the order. Some say they agree to Order No. 1/90, but that they cannot sign it. Showing patience, we called them in for the second time and asked them to sign it, and they obliged. Some of the political parties have formed an alliance, for instance, an 18-party alliance, and although each member party of the alliance signed the pledge, the parties called a general meeting and voted on Order No. 1/90. I understand that 10 parties supported it, seven parties did not, and one party abstained. I understand from a report submitted to me that they followed democratic practices and the minority agreed to abide by the majority decision."

Saw Maung then recalls the events of 1988 of which he says he has documents, videotapes, and other records. He was keeping them for history's sake. He says, "We have kept on record the activities of parties; of people active in the parties; of people and what they had done before, and how they lied to the country by concealing facts about themselves when they submitted their biographies for election candidacies."

Saw Maung says whatever he has been doing is in accordance with the religious way of thinking, with cause and effect, and with how past deeds can bring consequences in the future. "What we have thought of and decided is to have all people who are essentially vital put down in writing what they have done. And I wish to say beforehand that these persons had better write only the truth."

Saw Maung then discusses the importance of the exhibition on historical records and the news conferences which explained the situation of the nation.

He says the country will develop if people get rid of bad habits and grudges and work with pure goodwill and with all might. But, "if the grudges remain and work is done only for the sake of gaining power, then time and energy will be wasted because they will be spent in resolving problems that arise among compatriots. We will not waste time and will do whatever is needed to be done. It will be wrong of parties and organizations just to spend their spare time thinking of making criticisms and of transferring power. What I want to say is that instead of having antimilitary thoughts in the available time, they should set a timetable and do the things that should be done. Instead of trying to gain power or transfer power, following the procedures explained to the heads of the political parties on 1 February 1991 by the home and religious affairs minister, on behalf of the National Intelligence Bureau, would be the fairest way. (?Please keep this known) to the commanders of the divisions and military units, chairmen of regional (?law and order councils), and the people. In short, we are to return power to the parliament from which we had taken power. Only then will there be justice. Resolve the issues through political means. We will never hand over power to those like Sein Win [prime minister of the National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma], Bo Mya [Karen National Union leader], Brang Seng [Kachin Independence Organization leader], U Sein Mya [People's Defense Force leader], Bo Khin Maung [chairman of Alliance for Democratic Solidarity], and the other people being mentioned in the foreign press and radio broadcasts. Let me say that there is no other way to power for the local political organizations than through the process of drafting the constitution. Let me also say that meanwhile it will be essential for the commissions and the organizations to work with conscience and in accordance with the law. If a foreign country were to support Sein Win and his colleagues, then that country would not be behaving in a manner befitting a great nation and would be violating the Geneva Convention, because this is an internal affair of Myanmar [Burma]. I say this because the organization that we have formed is not aimed at conducting territorial expansion but at safeguarding our independence."

Saw Maung then notes relations with China and recalled his recent meeting with "Luo Gan, general secretary of the State Council of the People's Republic of China," at which he was told about the PRC's policy toward neighboring countries. He says the PRC "respects the independence and sovereignty of a nation, does not interfere in the internal affairs of that country, relates on the basis of the five principles of peaceful coexistence, and promotes friendship for generations to come. In this connection, it will be necessary to explain the PRC policy on the BCP [Burma Communist Party]. This is also history." Noting that when the former president, U San Yu, visited the PRC in 1984, together with other officials, including himself, Saw Maung says the PRC leaders told them "in brief" that "whatever took place during the cultural revolution did not happen because of the present leaders. Even the present leaders went through hardships then." Saw Maung says, "Regarding the BCP, they explained that it was an internal affair of Myanmar. From what I have said just now, I believe that the PRC policy toward us and toward the BCP is quite clear. There are records about this matter."

Saw Maung then notes the events of 1988 which were started because of the BCP. On Aung San Suu Kyi he says, "We have said many times that we have stopped action from being taken against Daw [Ms.] Suu Kyi because of her father Bogyoke Aung San [late national leader]."

Saw Maung then goes on to explain what he has studied on religious teachings, including how difficult it is for a human to come into being, discussing the formation of a human embryo at length, and notes his experiment with entering computer data on what constitutes a perfect human being.

Agriculture Institutes To Reopen 14 Feb

BK0802073891 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 7 Feb 91

[Text] It has been announced by authorities concerned today that Agriculture Institutes in Pyinmana, Thaton, Myaungmya, Shwebo, Patheingyi, Pwintbyu, and Tharawaddy under the Department of Technical, Agricultural, and Vocational Education of the Ministry of Education will be reopened on Thursday 14 February 1991.

Clases for first, second, and third year agricultural and vocational courses will be opened simultaneously. Trainees are requested to report to their respective institutes beginning 13 February.

Opposition Party Member Dies in Insein Jail

BK0802021591 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 8 Feb 91 p 7

[Text] Another member of Burma's main opposition party has died in prison and relatives doubt the military government's statement that he died of illness, diplomats said yesterday.

Burma's state radio said on January 31 that Tin Maung Win, who won a seat in parliament in last May's election, died on January 18. The brief report did not say how he died or where, but said he had "been removed from the list of elected People's Assembly representatives."

Diplomats in Rangoon said Tin Muang Win died in Rangoon's Insein Jail. They said relatives were sceptical of the authorities' explanation that he had died of leukemia.

The diplomats were contacted by telephone by the Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

Tin Maung Win won in Rangoon's Kayan constituency in the election, which the military government has refused to recognise. He belonged to the National League for Democracy, which swept the balloting.

The diplomats said he was middle-aged, with no obvious health problems.

Last November, Maung Ko, an influential organiser of the National League for Democracy, died in military custody. The authorities said he committed suicide, but relatives said they believed he was tortured to death.

Last month, Nay Min, local correspondent for the mass-circulation Japanese newspaper Asahi Shimbun, died of cirrhosis of the liver. Diplomats say his condition worsened after he was interrogated late last year and his government-owned house was taken away.

"It was not because of physical abuses during his interrogation. But it seems that he was so disheartened by his treatment and the loss of his house that old problems resurfaced," one diplomat said.

Nay Min, also a well-known novelist, was 60. He was interrogated because his reporting was considered too sympathetic to the National League for Democracy. His son is a member of the party and has been detained by the authorities.

A recent US State Department report called Burma's human rights situation "deplorable" and cited numerous credible reports of the torture and disappearance of government opponents.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Mahathir Calls for Donations for Gulf War Victims

BK0802064891 Kuala Lumpur International Service in English 0600 GMT 8 Feb 91

[Text] Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed has urged all Malaysians to donate to the Gulf victims of war's appeal by the Malaysian Red Crescent Society. The prime minister said the government is deeply concerned over the hardships caused to the people as a result of the Gulf war. It is hoped that the money collected will lessen their hardships. The prime minister feels the appeal will have the full support of the people. He hopes the conflict will end soon.

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The prime minister said this in a message in connection with the launching of the appeal by the Malaysian Red Crescent Society. He said the government fully supports the appeal.

Mahathir Remarks on East Asian Economic Grouping

BK0602133191 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 5 Feb 91 p 3

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Mon.—The development of an East Asian Economic Grouping will eventually create a self-generating engine of growth for countries in East Asia, the Prime Minister said today.

Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed said the grouping, which Malaysia is promoting, was important to countries in the region even if it failed to prevent protectionism by the European and American blocs.

"The development of a dynamic economic powerhouse in this region will also be beneficial to the Third World countries as it will help to minimise the adverse impacts arising from developments in industrialised countries by creating additional revenue for trade and development," he said.

Dr. Mahathir said this while opening the two-day development strategy symposium organised by the World Bank here.

The purpose of the symposium is the exchange development experiences among East Asian countries to facilitate and assist Vietnam which is in the process of rebuilding and developing its economy.

Also attending the symposium is the Vietnamese First Vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, Mr Vo Van Kiet.

Malaysia, which is committed to the principle of free trade, noted with concern the possibility of failure in the present round of trade negotiations related to the Eastern and American blocs, he said.

"We also note other present trends towards the formation of trading blocs and the creation of bilateral trading arrangements involving developed countries and their close neighbours.

"These trends are likely to result in protectionist policies, resulting in the restriction of world trade, diversion of trade away from countries outside the blocs and the disruption of the free flow of capital.

"Such a trend can have detrimental effects on the economies of developing countries which have trading and other economic ties with the developed countries concerned," he said.

Dr. Mahathir said the detrimental effect of such a trend on the economies of countries in this region could be minimised if countries such as those in East Asia could speak with one voice on issues of common concern.

"If we are to prevent a trend towards protectionism by the European and American blocs we must prove that the trend is damaging to their own economies.

"The possibility of losing a large market consisting of a group of countries would militate against protectionist tendencies and the formation of blocs," he said.

Dr. Mahathir said Malaysia would be very keen to participate in developing Vietnam's petroleum, mining, plantation and forestry sectors as well as in investments in manufacturing, financial and other services.

He said Malaysia would be providing direct technical assistance for the rubber industry in Vietnam.

"Before the Vietnam war, we had made some allocations to assist Vietnam in developing its rubber industry.

"We stalled the allocations because of the war but now that it is over, we will assist Vietnam in further developing its rubber industry," he said.

Dr. Mahathir hoped Vietnam would allow the private sector to participate in its development programmes because such a policy had proven to be successful in several countries in the region.

"The results of the privatisation exercise in Malaysia have been very encouraging and some of the privatised entities which were previously recording losses have begun to show profits, some of considerable magnitude," he said.

Commentary on Economic Grouping

BK0702101591 Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in Malay 0800 GMT 7 Feb 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] The East Asia Economic Grouping or EAEG concept continues to draw the attention of the media as well as various trade and economic organizations not only in Malaysia but in the region as well.

Malaysia, having initiated the proposal, will persevere with her efforts to attract as many East Asian countries as possible to participate in the proposed grouping once it is established. As Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed has said, Malaysia will not be discouraged by attempts from any quarter to stop the effort. His remark came in the wake of a foreign news agency report that the United States was trying to discourage some countries in the region from joining the EAEG.

Malaysia will not approach or question the U.S. over any such attempt even if there is truth in the report. When the U.S. set up a common market with Canada and is hoping to include Mexico in the set up, Malaysia was not consulted and it did not interfere. Why should there be an attempt to stop the formation of the EAEG? All countries have their own interests and should feel free to give priority to these interests. As has been repeatedly pointed out, the EAEG is aimed at enabling East Asian countries to plan their trade programs in order to widen their markets and improve trade relations among members.

The concept, if implemented, will inject greater dynamism into the region and ensure balanced and free trade. The formation of the grouping is especially important now in facing new challenges in view of the failure of the Uruguay round of multilateral trade negotiations to come to a successful conclusion by the end of last year. Then there are the apprehensions over the European Community's plan to become a single market next year as well as the U.S.-Canada-Mexico economic bloc.

Malaysia has been greatly encouraged by the fact that all of its five ASEAN partners have given full endorsement to the EAEG concept. The ASEAN chambers of commerce and industry or ASEAN CCI have also expressed full support in the firm belief that the concept will enhance trade opportunities and economic cooperation.

Apart from ASEAN, reaction from other East Asian countries has also been favorable. However, Japan, whose participation in EAEG will be a significant factor, has said that there are many issues to consider before making a commitment. As former Japanese Foreign Minister Dr. Sabura Okita said in Kuala Lumpur recently, Japan has two faces—global and Asian. There is a need to work out a bridge to connect the two.

Contrary to the belief of some nations that EAEG will adopt an inward-looking policy, it is aimed at enhancing a freer international trade system where protectionism can be minimized which will in turn bring more benefits to the world's poor. The point to remember is that EAEG will not contravene the principles of multilateral trade as laid down by the GATT and will also run parallel to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation or APEC. Countries outside the EAEG should have no concern or doubts over the concept.

Deputy Prime Minister Criticizes U.S. Trade Plan

BK0702094091 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0741 GMT 7 Feb 91

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Feb 7 (OANA/BERNAMA)—The United States' proposal to set up the North American free trade bloc shows the insincerity of the industrialised nations in maintaining world peace, Deputy Prime Minister Ghafar Baba said Tuesday.

He said it would be dangerous if some countries became rich while others remained poor.

Rich industrialised nations should help the poor countries and not to frustrate their efforts towords progress, he told reporters after receiving his Vietnamese counterpart, Vo Van Kiet, at his office here.

Ghafar said big nations which were rich should instead work towards ensuring the livelihood of all human kinds. "America, already a major power, still wants to have a bloc. It is most regretting that they are trying to frustrate the idea of [words indistinct].

Ghafar was commenting on a U.S. proposal to set up a free trading bloc for North America which will also include Canada and Mexico.

Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed had earlier criticised the United States which he said was trying to influence several nations in this region not to participate in the East Asia Economic Group (EAEG) proposed by Malaysia.

Ghafar said the Vietnamese deputy prime minister was very keen in the EAEG project. He told Kiet that it was Malaysia's policy to cooperate with other developing countries in economic matters.

"I also stressed that ASEAN in fact wants to cooperate with the countries in Indochina because we are in the same region," he said.

Trade Minister Remarks on Proposal

BK0702100191 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0521 GMT 7 Feb 91

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Jan 7 (OANA-BERNAMA)—The proposed U.S.-Canada-Mexico free trade zone is acceptable as long as it is GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) consistent and does not discriminate against third countries, Malaysian International Trade and Industry Minister Rafidah Aziz said Wednesday, [6 February].

It should also not distort or divert trade, she added when commenting on reports that the United States, Mexico, and Canada will begin talks in June to create a North American free trade zone.

As long as it is within GATT provisions, the proposed free trade zone should make no difference to Malaysia's trade with the three countries, Rafidah said. At present the United States is one of Malaysia's largest trading partners.

If they want to set up a trade bloc, or whatever they want to call it, because of reasons which are good for them and do not harm anybody else, go ahead and do it, she said.

On a recent report that the United States had asked countries in Southeast Asia not to support Malaysia's proposal to form an East Asian Economic Grouping (EAEG), Rafidah commented: when we want to do things which are good for us and do not harm them, and in fact contribute to multilateralism, there is no reason why anybody should want to put any stumbling block in front of it.

The United States had said that trade blocs are not the answer to the anticipated failure of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotations held under the auspices of GATT. It said that instead, countries should go back to the negotiating table to bring the Uruguay Round to a successsul conclusion.

On what her response is to Asian nations which have been cold to Malaysia's initiative to form the EAEG, Rafidah said Malaysia has not gone to countries outside of ASEAN yet with the proposal. We don't know what their response will be, she said.

She refuted talk that Indonesia has not shown support for the grouping, saying that Indonesia supports the concept but wants it to be studied in greater detail, which is in fact what Malaysia has proposed to do.

There are two channels for discussing technicalities of the EAEG, she said. One is the senior economic officials meeting in Jakarta, of which Indonesia is the chairman. The other is the senior Foreign Ministry officials meeting which will be held in Kuala Lumpur.

We are talking about ASEAN endorsing Malaysia's proposal and then, together each other inputs to make the idea a reality, the minister said. These inputs can take the forms of ideas, proposal and modus operandi.

Only after the proposal has been crystalised into something viable will ASEAN get other East Asian countries to come into the grouping, she added.

Commentary Lauds DPRK Premier's Official Visit

BK0802100191 Kuala Lumpur International Service in English 0800 GMT 8 Feb 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] The visit of North Korean Prime Minister Yon Hyong-Muk to Malaysia this week was most welcome as it ensured that the relations between the two countries will become closer.

In the discussions between the visiting prime minister's 28- member delegation and Malaysian officials it was evident that the two countries hold similar views on various issues—both regional and international. Mr. Yon was most encouraging in giving his whole support for Malaysia's proposal for the establishment of an East Asian Economic Grouping or EAEG. He also expressed his government's support for ASEAN's aim of turning the region into a zone of peace, freedom, and neutrality or ZOPFAN and also for a nuclear-free zone. Both countries also shared similar views on the Gulf war which they feel can be brought to an end with the withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait and the allied forces from the region. The North Korean delegation was also briefed on Malaysia's firm policy of noninterference in other nations' internal affairs with particular reference to the Cambodian problem.

On the unification of North Korea with South Korea, Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed told his visiting counterpart that Malaysia welcomes with relief the rapprochement taking place in the northern area of the Asia-Pacific seaboard. This rapprochement is seen to be in line with development in Southeast Asia where ASEAN countries have built a measure of stability over a period of 20 years.

Trade between Malaysia and North Korea is still at a low level, averaging only about 30 million ringgit annually for the last five years. This situation can be rectified if the two countries can capitalize on counter trade. This can be an effective way to increase the level of bilateral trade especially when North Korea does not at present have sufficient foreign exchange. The North Korea private sector can be encouraged to take available information on what they have to offer their Malaysian counterparts in order to enable counter trade to play a mutually beneficial role.

In the visiting premier's four-day itinerary was a visit to the Sapura Holdings manufacturing plant in Ulu Kelang near Kuala Lumpur. Sapura has established itself as the leading manufacturer of telecommunications equipment which has been in demand both domestically and overseas. It currently exports its telephones to the United States, Japan, Germany, France, Italy, and Vietnam. It has identified three more countries—Pakistan, Singapore, and Indonesia—in its plan to intensify its exports. In addition, Sapura's 2000F hand-free telephones, the first of its kind in the world, have received recognition from the standard board authority of many countries such as the United States, Japan, Belgium, Holland, United Kingdom, and Bangladesh.

Mr. Yon and his delegation were clearly impressed with what they saw of latest achievements in various fields. Their visit, though brief, is a forerunner to greater political and economic cooperation between the two countries.

Mahathir: Sabah Party Desires Coalition

BK0602130591 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 5 Feb 91 p 1

[By Jeffrey Ramayah]

[Excerpt] Kuala Lumpur, Mon [Monday, 4 February]—The Parti Bersatu Sabah [PBS] has expressed its desire to form a coalition Government with USNO [United Sabah National Organization], Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed said today.

Sabah Chief Minister and PBS president Datuk Sri Joseph Pairin Kitingan met the Prime Minister last Saturday to discuss the possibility but a decision on this will only be made after the matter has been discussed by the Barisan Nasional [BN].

The reply was conveyed by the Prime Minister to Datuk Sri Pairin during the meeting two days ago.

Speaking to reporters after opening the World Bank's development strategy symposium here, Dr Mahathir said:

"The situation is different because the PBS is in the Opposition and wants to form a Government with a BN party.

"The PBS was also a BN component but it chose to join the Opposition before the recent general election," he added.

At Saturday's meeting, Dr Mahathir pointed out to the PBS delegation that the proposal might be complicated following the decision by the majority of USNO members to join UMNO [United Malays National Organization].

Dr Mahathir will be in Sabah on Feb. 20 to inaugurate the formation of UMNO there.

"I pointed out to Datuk Sri Pairin that the proposal to form a coalition Government would mean that PBS will have to cooperate with UMNO.

"The PBS leaders did not state that they wanted to rejoin the BN but only said they wanted to form a coalition Government with USNO in Sabah."

In the Sabah State Assembly, the PBS has 36 seats and USNO 12. The PBS has an additional six nominated members.

On a proposal by the UMNO general assembly that non-military compulsory national service be introduced in the country, Dr. Mahathir said the Government had yet to make a decision. [passage omitted]

Official Views Status of Ex-Communist Party Chief

BK0702120891 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 7 Feb 91 p 17

[By Kalimullah Hassan]

[Text] Kuala Lumpur—Former Communist Party of Malaya [CPM] leader Chin Peng will have to be "rehabilitated" first and undergo all procedures applicable to ex-CPM members before he can enter politics, Deputy Home Minister Datuk Megat Junid Megat Ayub said yesterday.

Datuk Megat Junid told THE STRAITS TIMES that he had not seen any application by Mr. Chin Peng, 68, to return to Malaysia or to enter politics here.

But this did not mean there was no such application, he said, referring to reports originating from Bangkok that Mr. Chin Peng was waiting to be interviewed by Malaysian officials before being allowed to return.

"He may have made his application through the Foreign Ministry or some other channel," he said.

Datu Megat Junid however stressed that Mr. Chin Peng would not get any preferential or "extraordinary" treatment.

He said all former communists have to undergo certain procedures before being allowed to return to society. He added that the federal Constitution, which forbids any party with a communist ideology, would also have to be considered before any move to enter politics.

Mr Chin Peng was quoted in the BANGKOK POST as saying that he and several hundred CPM guerrillas, who laid down their arms in 1989, had asked to return to Malaysia to continue their struggle within the parliamentary system.

In the interview, he said that he and his followers believed that they could make a "positive contribution" to Malaysia.

"I am optimistic that some Malaysians will give us support for our political struggle.

"I am realistic that the support would not be so much that we could win a political majority, but it should be enough for us to launch a political movement," he said.

Official Thai figures show that a total of 1,101 former CPM guerrillas gave up their armed struggle when a truce was signed in December 1989.

Some 300 of them have said that they want to return to Malaysia while the rest have resettled in four villages in Thailand.

The Malaysian government is believed to have given an undertaking in 1989 that it would allow former CPM members from Malaysia to return, and to permit them to eventually enter the political arena legitimately.

According to the POST Mr. Chin Peng has applied to return to Malaysia on the basis of this understanding.

Cambodia

Hor Namhong on Peace Prospects, Other Issues

BK0802034591 Bangkok THE NATION in English 8 Feb 91 p A11

[Interview with Foreign Minister Hor Namhong by Kawi Chongkitthawon; place and date not given]

[Text] [Chongkitthawon] What is the latest development in Cambodia's normalization of ties with China?

[Hor Namhong] After two initial diplomatic contacts with China, there is a better understanding of each other's perspective on the Cambodian issue. We would like to have more contacts with China. We wish to have a good relationship with China. In fact, Cambodia has nothing against China, except for Chinese support to the Khmer Rouge leaders.

[Chongkitthawon] Is the Presence of ethnic Chinese in Cambodia an important issue in your contacts with China?

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[Hor Namhong] The government respects the rights of Chinese residents in Cambodia who have been living here for generations. They have their respective rights to respect their tradition.

[Chongkitthawon] Why did you sue Prince Sihanouk?

[Hor Namhong] I have sued Prince Sihanouk for justice and not to get money. I want to clarify the accusation put forward by the prince. I have nothing against him personally. In fact, I was a Sihanoukist in the 70's. But when he accused me of being a Khmer Rouge cadre who condemned many Cambodians to their death, it was just too much. That was very hypocritical of him. The prince was the one who defended the Khmer Rouge strongly, and became an ally of theirs. Prince Sihanouk was the king of the Khmer Rouge.

When he accused me publicly, I was obliged to sue him. I believe that any reconciliation will be based on truth. The money in damages, about 100,000 French francs will be used for building schools and for contributions to religious ceremonies.

[Chongkitthawon] How has the Gulf War affected the Cambodian peace process?

[Hor Namhang] The political process will continue despite the Gulf crisis as is evidenced by the visit of the co-chairpersons of the Paris conference to Vietnam and Thailand. The sooner the Cambodian conflict is settled, the better it is for the region. Cambodians want the Cambodian war to end as soon as possible in order to reconstruct their country.

[Chongkitthawon] How would you describe the first meeting of the latest Supreme National Council (SNC)?

[Hor Namhong] Contrary to press reports, the SNC meeting in Paris last December was in fact a step forward. The meeting was not meant for negotiating, but rather for exchanging views and reprots between the SNC and the co-chairpersons of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia.

The upcoming SNC meeting should focus on the "internal" aspects such as the relationship between the SNC and United Nations during the transitional period, and how the general elections in Cambodia should be organized.

[Chongkitthawon] How is the military situation in Cambodia now?

[Hor Namhang] The Khmer Rouge together with the Sihanoukists and Son Sannists will continue to try to stage offensives to seize some more territory and defend their strongholds. In an attack on Battambang on Jan 29, the resistance used four tanks against our position.

Phnom Penh has adopted a new defensive strategy. We will exercise self-restraint to create a more favourable atmosphere for peace and political settlement.

[Chongkitthawon] How will Phnom Penh deal with the displaced Cambodians along the Thai-Cambodian border?

[Hor Namhong] Those displaced persons from various areas have become a heavy social burden for the govenrment, esepcially in Kampongthom and Banteay Meancheay. The government has to help them return to their home towns.

[Chongkitthawon] What is your view on Thailand's plan to open a Thai trade office in Phnom Penh?

[Hor Namhong] It is a good idea. It will help further develop trade relations between the two countries. If Thailand sets up an office here, we would consider setting up a similar office in Bangkok to facilitate bilateral trade and business contacts.

[Chongkitthawon] Will Soviet assistance to Cambodia be cut this year?

[Hor Namhong] The Soviet military assistance to Cambodia ended last year; only Soviet economic assistance and cooperation with Cambodia will continue.

Cambodia is prepared to face economic hardships from the reduction of aid from socialist countries. The country has economic and commercial relations with many countries.

Efforts are being made to get more aid from countries like India and Western countries through their nongovernmental organizations.

[Chongkitthawon] What is Phnom Penh's position on how to keep the peace process moving forward?

[Hor Namhong] Phnom Penh will not dismantle its government, will not disarm its forces; and there msut be concrete measures to prevent the return to power of the Khmer Rouge.

Phnom Penh, however, accepts the concept of regrouping and cantonment of its forces as well as arms storage under the UN control.

An agreement among the SNC representatives and concerned countries on these issues is necessary.

The most dangerous aaspect is the return of the Khmer Rouge through the political settlement under the protection of Prince Sihanouk.

Government Urges Resumption of SNC Session

BK0802081791 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 7 Feb 91

[Station commentary: "A Shameful Disappointment"]

[Text] After completing a working visit to the SRV and the Kingdom of Thailand, Indonesian Minister of Foreign Affairs Ali Alatas, French Minister Delegate for

Foreign Affairs Mrs. Edwige Avice, UN Deputy Secretary General Rafiuddin Ahmad, and the host countries agreed that it would be most useful to hold another meeting with the Cambodian Supreme National Council [SNC] in order to prepare the way for the convening of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia [PICC] coordinating committee. This has come as a great disappointment for the Cambodian factions on the other side.

It is public knowledge that on 14 January the leadership of the now defunct tripartite coalition government sent a message to the PICC cochairmen, earnestly asking them to convene the PICC coordinating committee as soon as possible. This message was supported on 15 January by Sihanouk, who was keeping a low profile in Beijing. Sihanouk, Son Sann, and Khieu Samphan all attempted to use the stage of this coordinating committee to sow confusion about the internal and international aspects of the Cambodian problem so that they can use it as a pretext to shift the blame on the State of Cambodia Government.

At the end of December last year, resorting to the trick of fully accepting the UN peace plan, Sihanouk, Son Sann, and Khieu Samphan fervently hoped that the State of Cambodia Government would not accept it, which would become an important excuse for them to put the blame on us. However, they were disappointed as the State of Cambodia Government accepted most of the fundamental points of the plan and was of the opinion that the remaining issues would be picked up for discussion in the PICC cooordinating committee and among the SNC members.

Therefore, this is the second shameful disappointment for them, especially for Sihanouk, who finds himself doubly and bitterly disappointed.

Eeryone knows that the coordinating committee, the PICC, or the meeting between the co-chairmen and Vietnam and Thailand can only settle the international aspect of the Cambodian problem. As for the internal aspect of the problem, it is the exclusive prerogative of the Cambodian people that no individual or organization can exercise in their place. As a rule, if the opposing Cambodian factions failed to solve their internal dispute, no other individual nor international organization would have the slightest chance of solving it. Therefore, for the immediate future, the resumption of the SNC meeting is of great significance to discuss the role of an organization symbolizing the national independence, sovereignty, and unity during the transitional period. Several pending issues awaiting the study and decision by the SNC in the process toward a common, comprehensive solution include the question of voluntary ceasefire to create an atmosphere of mutual trust and the question of how large or how limited a role the United Nations will play in the Cambodian solution as the SNC will have to hand it over to the necessary authority.

People know very well that in coming to Cambodia following the peace agreement, the United Nations will be here not to implement the agreement but to control the implementation of the agreement by the Cambodian factions and countries involved and to organize general elections in Cambodia. Therefore, in order to realize this essential objective, it is ncessary that various Cambodian factions must be brought to agree with each other on the internal aspect first. To accomplish this, there is only one way: The Cambodian SNC must be encouraged to resume the session suspended in mid-September last year. If the SNC fails in its work, the solution to the Cambodian problem will never reach its final stage. Therefore, the attempts made by the Cambodian factions on the other side to use any forum or organization to achieve their dark schemes will only result in greater disappointment. Should they persist, not only would they experience disappointment, but they would also be kicked into the waste basket of history by the Cambodian people.

Mat Ly Meets Soviet Peace Committee Delegation

BK0702124591 Phnom Penh SPK in French 1123 GMT 7 Feb 91

[Text] Phnom Penh, 7 Feb (SPK)—Mat Ly, chairman of the Cambodian Committee for Solidarity With the Peoples, received in Phnom Penh on Tuesday, 5 February, a delegation of the Soviet Committee for Peace led by its vice chairman, Aleksandr Pliyakovskiy, which had been visiting Cambodia since 31 January.

Mat Ly, also member of the Political Bureau of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party [KPRP] Central Committee and vice chairman of the National Assembly, called the visit of the Soviet delegation a contribution to the strengthening of friendly relations between the two countries and peoples.

Mat Ly said that now the Cambodian people are in a position to take charge by themselves of all the tasks, particularly in the national defense, although the enemies are seeking by all means to topple the State of Cambodia militarily.

After informing his guests of the main points adopted by the 12th Plenum of the KPRP Central Committee and the 20th session of the National Assembly, Mat Ly thanked the Soviet party, government, and people for their support to the struggle waged by the Cambodian party, government, and people.

For his part, Aleksandr Pliyakovskiy expressed high appreciation of the achievements recorded by the Cambodian people under the just leadership of the KPRP, and reaffirmed his country's support for the Cambodian people's just cause for peace and stability.

During its stay from 31 January to 5 February, the delegation was received by Som Kimsuor, member of the KPRP Central Committee and chief editor of the journal PRACHEACHON; Yit Kimseng, chairman of the Cambodian Peace Committee; and Prach Sun, Cambodian deputy foreign minister.

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It also visited Angkor Wat temple, the Tuol Sleng museum of the crime of genocide, the Cheung Ek mass grave, and some economic and cultural sites in Phnom Penh and Takeo Province.

Peace Proposal, Factional Disagreements Viewed

BK0802030991 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 8 Feb 91 p 4

["At Odds Over Peace Plan" by Jacques Bekaert from the "Cambodian Diary"]

[Text] It's amazing how everybody suddenly falls in love with human rights.

In their daily radio broadcasts the Khmer Rouge have no words strong enough to proclaim their passion for the protection of human rights of Cambodians.

During a recent session of the National Assembly in Phnom Penh, the president, Mr Chea Sim, a key member of the politburo of the ruling People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea (PRPK), declared that "the State of Cambodia respects the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and all provisions regarding human rights."

The two other factions will certainly tell you they love nothing more than human rights.

For the average Cambodian, of course, protection of basic human rights depends very much on the local leader of the day.

And while progress has been made in Phnom Penh and elsewhere, nobody expects Cambodia to become a paradise for human rights and freedom for quite a while.

The state of war is naturally often used as an excuse to explain, if not justify, arbitrary behaviour. It is of course in the logic of a party at war to look for maximum strength, including human resource.

Compulsory conscription is not popular; not along the border, not inside the country. Very few Cambodians, at this stage, join any army out of deep conviction. At the border there is an influx of people from inside, many trying to escape the draft.

The war goes on, though, and will continue as long as no agreement exists among the four Khmer factions to put an end to hostilities. The war goes on, but on a very modest scale when it comes to actual fighting.

And there was some surprise in Bangkok when the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Cambodia, Mr Hor Namhong, told the BBC that the Khmer Rouge had just launched a large scale offensive in the Pailin area and were moving in the direction of the provincial capital, Battambang.

Phnom Penh was quite precise: five Khmer Rouge Chinese-made tanks and some American armoured personnel carriers (APCs) were involved in the fighting, but the Cambodian People's Armed Forces had so far managed to resist, killing and wounding dozens of enemies.

Pailin is not very far from the Thai border. Battles that size do not go unnoticed. And so far no one has heard anything. No one has been able to confirm any of the action, not even the fact that there is a battle going on.

Of course, everybody knows something about the 24 Chinese tanks that the Khmer Rouge allegedly received a few months ago. I have not been able to get any confirmation of the existence of these famous but invisible tanks. In Phnom Penh, good army sources said they knew about the tanks because of articles in the Western Press. A senior diplomatic source in Hanoi said Vietnam's assessment of the tanks was based on information from Phnom Penh's army.

The resistance captured a few tanks after September 1989. Soviet-made T-54s; and no vehicle looks more like a Chinese T-54 than a Soviet T-54. As for the American APC, they exist; the Khmer Rouge seized a lot of these famous armoured cars in 1975 from the Lon Nol Army and managed to bring a few to the Thai border in 1979. They are still in use.

There is another little problem with the big Khmer Rouge armoured offensive: the terrain is rather unsuitable for tanks.

Could it be that Phnom Penh wants—in light of further pressure to accept the Perm Five peace plan—to draw more attention to the Khmer Rouge danger?

The visit to Hanoi of the Indonesian and French co-chairmen of the International Paris Conference on Cambodia (IPCC) did not bring great surprises. The Perm Five document was explained in detail to the Vietnamese, who carefully accepted its basic terms but explained that some improvement was still necessary. Because the Perm Five plan is the result of complex negotiations between countries as diverse as China, the Soviet Union, the US, France and Britain, modifications of the original plan are very delicate.

The Chinese are adamant that it is extremely dangerous to allow one faction to introduce changes into the text, as it would lead other factions to do the same. The process would be endless and the whole plan could collapse. Senior officials of the Chinese Foreign Ministry have insisted that even explanations of the plan should be kept to a minimum. Beijing was reluctant when Mr Rafiuddin Ahmad, the UN deputy secretary-general in charge of Cambodia, wrote an "explanatory note" on the question of disarmament, a note that was welcomed by Phnom Penh.

The Chinese aren't the only ones who believe that we will have to wait for the 7th Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam to get a definite commitment (or, more unlikely, a clear opposition) from Hanoi in regard of the Perm Five plan. Hanoi does not oppose the plan, but also seems to support Phnom Penh's objections to military aspects of the plan, and uses similar language to insist that the plan respect the UN Charter and the National Sovereignty of Cambodia.

At least during their visit to Hanoi, Mr Alatas, Mr Rafiuddin Ahmad and Ms Edwige Avice were able to demonstrate at length that the plan is in no way a tool to dismantle the present regime, or a plot to bring back the Khmer Rouge, and that it was not conceived to abuse Cambodian sovereignty.

As one European source in Beijing noted, the Chinese go as far as to wonder to what extent Phnom Penh and Hanoi speak with one single voice. But Chinese officials also insist there is so far very little in Phnom Penh's position that differs from Vietnam's point of view.

On January 20, a Vietnamese delegation arrived in Beijing led by party secretary in charge of economic affairs, Mr Vu Oanh. Sources in the Chinese capital said trade was not the only matter on the agenda, and that some of the conversation was about Cambodia. There were also rumours in Beijing that soon a senior Vietnamese personality—a member of the politburo—is likely to visit China for further political talks.

China insists that normalisation between the two countries is directly linked to a solution of the Cambodian problem. Before the Jakarta meeting last September, the Sihanoukists and the KPNLF [Khmer People's National Liberation Front] delegates were told by Chinese officials to be flexible and "avoid upsetting Mr Hun Sen," as there was a "new era of Sino-Vietnamese relations." This was a few days after the visit to China of Nguyen Van Linh, Do Muoi and Pham Van Dong.

But ever since, the Chinese have been rather critical of Hanoi, especially of its foreign minister, Mr Nguyen Co Thach. Relations between China and Vietnam are of special importance in the context of the Cambodian problem.

The next step on the endless road to peace in Cambodia could be in Bangkok, where a representative from Phnom Penh is due soon.

The three factions of the resistance do not need more convincing. They have fully accepted the Perm Five plan. It is doubtful though, that they will agree to any change in the plan.

Mr Chea Sim told the National Assembly in Phnom Penh that "our state has no interest in opposing the United Nations role in Cambodia during the transition period (providing) it does not violate the UN Charter and put the Cambodian people under a threat and risk of an uncontrollable civil war."

The Perm Five are still encouraging Phnom Penh to be more precise in its criticism of the plan. Both the United States and the Soviet Union say they understand Phnom Penh's fear of the Khmer Rouge, but explain that part of the Perm Five plan is designed precisely to prevent a return of the Khmer Rouge to power.

During a recent party plenum in Phnom Penh, the PRPK insisted the military, political and economic machine of the Khmer Rouge must be destroyed.

Phnom Penh is not alone in worrying about the Khmer Rouge. A Sihanoukist general recently said he was disappointed at the weakness of the Phnom Penh army, because "one day we may all need to be strong to resist the Khmer Rouge," whose presence inside Cambodia is, by independent accounts, stronger today than it has ever been since 1979.

AFP: Resistance Steps Up Activities in West

BK0702141191 Hong Kong AFP in English 1338 GMT 7 Feb 91

[Text] Phnom Penh, Feb 7 (AFP)—The Khmer Rouge has stepped up the pressure on Phnom Penh forces in western Cambodia while military convoys were seen earlier this week heading for central Cambodia, aid workers here said Thursday.

Government officials said earlier this week that resistance guerrillas in western and northwestern Cambodia had last week launched offensives against Phnom Penh troops with the help of tanks. Foreign Minister Hor Namhong said Khmer Rouge guerrillas, backed by five tanks, had late last week pushed forward from the gem-mining town of Pailin on the western border with Thailand. Officials said the guerrillas lost two war vehicles and suffered heavy casualties.

An aid worker who returned from Battambang last week said that the city, Cambodia's second largest, did not seem in danger of imminent collapse. "It's not a severe situation," he said, but added that the Khmer Rouge appeared to have "turned the screws a bit more" along the 80 kilometre (50 mile) road link between the provincial capital and Pailin.

He cited local officials as saying six people were killed, including two monks, by resistance fire on January 24 or 25 in Phnom Sampou just 13 kilometres (eight miles) from Battambang. A 12th century temple at Phnom Banan, near Battambang, was damaged by enemy fire, he added.

A medical worker who arrived here Monday said eight civilians from Phnom Sampou were brought to hospital in Battambang on Saturday with shell wounds. He quoted provincial authorities as saying that government forces had pushed back the Khmer Rouge. "There is military activity," he said, adding that the curfew in Battambang—starting at 7:00 P.M.—was being more tightly enforced.

Further north, in Beantey Meanchey Province, refugees have been fleeing an upsurge in fighting around Svay Chey, an International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) source said. Officials earlier this week said non-communist guerrillas had attacked positions near Svay Chek, close to the border with Thailand. The ICRC source, citing reports from workers in the area, said last week some 400 families had moved to Sisophon from villages up to 40 kilometres (25 miles) away. The influx was putting further strain on already crowded camps for displaced people near Sisophon, the provincial capital.

Unconfirmed reports said shells had landed earlier this week in the town's marketplace, though sources agreed that the town was not expected to fall. Meanwhile, another aid worker said here he had seen truckloads of troops pulling heavy artillery pieces on Monday waiting to cross the Mekong River at a ferry point 30 kilometres (19 miles) north of here. Highway six on the other side of the river passes through the key central province of Kompong Thom on its way to Siem Reap in the northwest. An official here earlier this week reported fighting in the province.

SPK: Two Enemy Tanks Destroyed on Road 69

BK0802062291 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0500 GMT 8 Feb 91

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK, February 8—According to the military sources in Banteay Meanchey Province, the government troops on Feb. 1, launched counterattacks on enemy soldiers at a stretch of Road 69, inflicting heavy casualties on them.

Road 69 links Sisophon to Svay Chek, 400 km northwest of Phnom Penh.

In the attacks, the government forces put out of action 251 enemy troops, including 85 killed on the spot and 166 others wounded, and destroyed a good quantity of other war means.

The same sources also added that the government troops destroyed two tanks of the opposition factions.

361 Enemy Soldiers 'Put Out of Action'

BK0802033691 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1200 GMT 7 Feb 91

[Excerpt] During the past week, the enemy continued to fire barrages of support shells into Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey, Banteay Meanchey, and Battambang Provinces in order to enable their soldiers to launch activities, robbing and bullying, against our people in remote areas along the border.

With resolute determination to repulse the enemy and provide security for our people, during the past week, our armed forces throughout the country valiantly repulsed the enemies. They put out of action 361 enemy soldiers, including 119 killed and 71 captured, and seized 274 weapons, three field radios, and a large quantity of war materiel. [passage omitted]

Sihanouk Urges Unity, Continued Struggle

BK0802035891 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 7 Feb 91

[Text] On 6 February, Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, president of Cambodia and head of Cambodian national resistance forces, sent a message to Prince Norodom Ranariddh calling on Cambodian national resistance forces to jointly struggle until achieving total independence. Here is the essence of this message:

The Vietnamese authorities in Hanoi and their puppets in Phnom Penh have rejected the most important parts of the peace plan worked out by the five permanent members [of the UN Security Council]. In such a situation, it is necessary for all Cambodian compatriots and patriots to unite and carry on our sacred struggle for national liberation. Some of our Cambodian compatriots currently living abroad do not want a sacred unity among the Armed Forces of the three Cambodian national resistance groups for fighting against Vietnam until Cambodia achieves 100 percent independence. They do not want Cambodia to regain its territorial integrity within the boundary of its territorial land and waters in 1969.

In my capacity as the head of the Cambodian national resistance forces, I would like to call on the National Army of Independent Cambodia, National Army of Democratic Kampuchea, and the Khmer People's National Liberation Front Armed Forces to continue fighting against the Vietnamese aggressors until achieving total liberation.

I would like also to call on the resistance forces not to recognize the so-called general elections that the Phnom Penh puppets plan to organize because such elections would only serve to legalize Vietnam's colonization in Cambodia and its annexation of Cambodian territory.

Resistance Leaders Reply to Sihanouk Message

BK0802040091 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 7 Feb 91

[Text] On 6 February, in the name of the entire Cambodian national resistance forces, His Excellency Khieu Samphan, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, and Mr. Ieng Muli sent a reply message to Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, president of Cambodia and head of the Cambodian national resistance forces. The text of this message follows:

Esteemed samdech:

We have received your message, dated 6 February, which was addressed to Prince Norodom Ranariddh. All of us as representatives of the three groups of the Cambodian national resistance forces are highly honored to voice our full agreement with the content of this message.

We would like to solemnly pledge to the esteemed samdech that the three groups of the Cambodian national resistance forces will act in line with your advice so as to enable Cambodia to regain its 100 percent independence, along with its territorial integrity and territorial waters of 1969.

Please, esteemed samdech, accept our highest regards.

[Signed] Khieu Samphan, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, Ieng Muli.

Son Sann on Gulf War, Domestic Situation

BK0802092191 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 8 Feb 91

[Text] His Excellency Son Sann, president of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front [KPNLF] and prime minister of the Cambodian national government, expressed regret for the current war in the Persian Gulf following the aggression and occupation of Kuwait by foreign troops, an act which has been denounced by the United Nations.

In a communique, His Excellency Son Sann said, in his capacity as KPNLF president and on behalf of the Cambodian people, he supports the principle of law, particularly the right to self-determination of various nations, as stipulated in the UN Charter. His Excellency Son Sann specified that this principle, used by the United Nations against the occupation of Kuwait by foreign troops, should also be implemented in Cambodia. Cambodia has been occupied by Vietnamese aggressor forces since 1979. His Excellency Son Sann further said the United Nations and the UN Security Council are the hope of small countries, such as Afghanistan, Kuwait, and Cambodia. His Excellency Son Sann also expressed thanks to all UN members for their successive votes in support of the ASEAN countries' draft resolution calling for the withdrawal of foreign troops from Cambodia under UN supervision.

In this communique, His Excellency Son Sann also thanked the UN Security Council five permanent members for their efforts to work out a peace plan for Cambodia. The three parties of the Cambodian national government have already accepted in full this comprehensive solution and the world also realizes that the obstacle to a solution to the Cambodian problem is Vietnam, which continues to control the Phnom Penh regime. The latter has rejected the presence of a UN peacekeeping force in Cambodia.

His Excellency Son Sann also thanked the United States for refusing to resume trade relations with Hanoi until there is a comprehensive solution to the Cambodian problem.

Resistance Criticizes Vietnam, Phnom Penh

BK0802102091 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 8 Feb 91

[Text] Regarding a solution to the Cambodian problem, the three parties of the Cambodian resistance movement [CRM] said that the problem is not the difference of views among Cambodians on solving the Cambodian conflict but the rejection by Hanoi and the regime Vietnam has propped up in Phnom Penh.

In a communique dated 6 February, the CRM said the most effective measure in solving the Cambodian conflict is a comprehensive solution. The five major powers have already prepared documents within this framework. Therefore it is not a matter of disagreement between the resistance and the Phnom Penh regime but rather the rejection by Hanoi and the Phnom Penh side of the UN peace plan. The CRM has declared to the international community that its six members of the Supreme National Council have accepted in full the 28 August framework document and the 26 November 1990 draft agreement as the basis for a solution to the Cambodian problem.

Only Hanoi and Phnom Penh continue to criticize this plan and delay a solution to find peace for Cambodia. The CRM also specified that it is always ready to attend the meeting of the coordinating committee of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia [PICC] in accordance with the 23 December 1990 Paris joint statement.

The representatives of the CRM's three parties met with His Excellency Ali Alatas, Indonesian foreign minister and cochairman of the PICC, at the Indonesian Embassy in Bangkok on 4 February.

VODK Urges Soldiers To Flee Western Front

BK0802060091 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT 7 Feb 91

["Appeal to fraternal Cambodian soldiers on the western battlefield"]

[Text] Dear fraternal Cambodian soldiers on western region battlefield, the resistance forces are intensifying their offensive, using infantry forces, artillery pieces, and tanks in launching assaults into north and south Sisophon, Battambang-Route 10, Moung-Pursat, and Leach-Bakan battlefields.

This offensive by the resistance forces has caused heavy casualties daily to the Vietnamese aggressors and race exterminators and the traitors—Vietnamese puppet-lackeys.

The Vietnamese commanders and the puppets who are giving orders to you are in great desperation. They have lost their initiative in commanding the fight on battlefields. They can no longer withdraw troops from elsewhere to rescue their colleagues in these areas. This is because the resistance forces have kept pressuring them in all areas. Cambodian soldiers have become demoralized and kept deserting their ranks. They are suffering shortages of ammunition and fuel oil for transportation work.

You must have clearly seen the all-round difficulties facing the Vietnamese enemies and the traitorous puppet ringleaders. Therefore, for your own survival, you should quickly desert the Vietnamese aggressors and the traitorous puppet ringleaders.

Soldiers Urged To Leave Kompong Thom

BK0802082391 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT 7 Feb 91

["Appeal to fraternal Cambodian soldiers on Kompong Thom battlefield"]

[Text] Dear fraternal Cambodian soldiers on Kompong Thom battlefield: Ammunition of all types is running out. Transportation from Phnom Penh to Kompong Thom and from this town to positions on the Kompong Thom battlefield is facing serious difficulties because fuel oil is rare and its price has kept rising. There is only a small amount of ammunition in Kompong Thom depots. There are only a few hundred B-40 rockets, over 100 rounds of 60-mm mortar shells, about 400 DK-75 shells, and over 100 hand grenades available there. As the ammunition in stock is running out and transportation is so inconvenient, where can the Vietnamese enemies and the traitorous puppet ringleaders find enough ammunition for distribution to all positions defending Kompong Thom town which is under daily pressure from the national resistance forces.

For this reason, you should stop risking your lives serving as their shield. The national resistance forces will soon launch assaults into Kompong Thom town.

Resistance Groups To Attend Jakarta Meeting

BK0802025591 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 7 Feb 91

["Press Communique of the Cambodian National Resistance Forces dated 6 February 1991"—read by announcer]

[Text] On 4 February at the Indonesian Embassy in Bangkok, representatives of the three Cambodian national resistance groups held a discussion with His Excellency Ali Alatas, Indonesian foreign minister and cochairman of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia [PICC].

During the discussion, members of the Supreme National Council [SNC] from the Cambodian national resistance side expressed deep thanks to the two cochairmen and other friendly countries, particularly the Kingdom of Thailand, for speeding up the process toward settling Cambodian problem through peaceful means to pave the way for reconvening the PICC.

The Cambodian national resistance forces' SNC members reaffirmed their readiness to attend the PICC Coordinating Committee's meeting to be held in line with the Paris joint communique dated 23 December 1990. To reach this goal, the Cambodian national resistance forces' SNC members agreed to attend another Jakarta meeting between the two PICC cochairmen and SNC members.

The Cambodian national resistance forces' SNC members would like to remind the world community that the six SNC members from the Cambodian national resistance forces have all along adhered firmly to their stance in fully and unconditionally supporting the basic document dated 28 August 1990 and the draft agreement dated 26 November 1990 as the sole basis for resolving the Cambodian conflict.

Only the Hanoi authorities and the Phnom Penh regime have kept making complicated statements. Moreover, Hanoi and the Phnom Penh regime have sought every means to attack the above-mentioned documents in an attempt to prolong the search for peace in Cambodia.

The best measure that can settle the Cambodian conflict is to settle the conflict within the framework of a comprehensive solution. The five permanent members of the UN Security Council have drafted and elaborated documents for settling the Cambodian conflict within this framework. For this reason, we think that the main problem is not the differences between the Cambodian national resistance forces and the Phnom Penh regime nor the question of the bickering among the various Cambodian factions, but the fact that Vietnam and the Phnom Penh regime have vehemently rejected the UN peace plan that the two cochairmen proposed to Vietnam and its Phnom Penh puppets.

Indonesia

Kuwaiti, Iranian Envoys Meet Alatas on Gulf War

BK0802102891 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0940 GMT 8 Feb 91

[Text] Jakarta, Feb 8 (OANA/ANTARA)—The Kuwaiti and Iranian ambassadors to Indonesia have expressed hope that the meeting of 15 Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) countries in Belgrade on February 11-12 would succeed in seeking a settlement to the Gulf war.

The two ambassadors, Khalifah Husayn al-Musallam of Kuwait and Seyyed Asghar Qoreyshi of Iran, were giving comments to journalists after they separately met Foreign Minister Ali Alatas here on Friday.

Ambassador al-Musallam saw the foreign minister also to bid farewell as he would soon return to his country at the end of his term in Indonesia. "We hope the NAM countries would succeed in seeking a settlement to the Gulf war because resolution No. 678 of the United Nations Security Council which makes it imperative for

Iraqi troops to pull out from Kuwait has not been implemented yet," the Kuwaiti ambassador told ANTARA.

Meanwhile, Ambassador Qoreyshi of Iran commented that his country would work to its best in seeking a peaceful settlement to the Gulf crisis such as through the NAM meeting to be held in Belgrade.

Kuwaiti Ambassador al-Musallam said Indonesia has a wise stance vis-a-vis the Gulf crisis because it supports Resolution No. 678 of the UN Security Council. He said that the Organization of Islamic Conference could also play a role in seeking a settlement to the war.

Foreign Minister Alatas has announced that he will represent Indonesia in the meeting of 15 countries which will be held in Belgrade to seek a solution to the Gulf war.

Government To Send Aid to Gulf War Victims

BK0702130791 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 1200 GMT 7 Feb 91

[Excerpt] Indonesia is scheduled to send humanitarian aid through the Indonesian Red Cross Society to Gulf war victims and refugees. House of Representatives Speaker Kharis Suhud disclosed this after he and other House of Representatives leaders held consultations with President Suharto at the Bina Graha Presidential Office today. He said the aid reflected the Indonesian people's sympathy with the sufferings of the peoples of Kuwait, Iraq, and nearby countries.

Meanwhile, Sudomo, coordinating minister for politics and security, said security measures have been stepped up at various airports because the government did not want the country to be used as a stepping-stone by various parties to conduct acts of terrorism, particularly as a result of the Gulf war. Speaking after calling on the head of state at the Bina Graha Presidential Office in Jakarta today, Minister Sudomo said the stepped-up security measures, particularly those undertaken by intelligence officers, were designed to deter terrorists from trying to commit acts of violence in Indonesia. [passage omitted]

ADB Approves Aid for Environmental Assessment

BK0402114491 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1006 GMT 4 Feb 91

[Text] Jakarta, Feb. 04 (ANTARA)—The Manila-based Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a U.S. $340,000 technical assistance grant to Indonesia for strengthening the capability for environmental impact assessment in the Ministry of Mines and Energy, the bank said in a despatch from Manila Monday. It said the grant will be financed from the Japan special fund.

The objectives of the technical assistance are to assist the ministry in establishing an environmental impact analysis management system and to enhance the capabilities of staff concerned in environmental impact analysis.

The executing agency for the technical assistance will be the ministry's bureau of planning through a coordinator to be designated.

It said the coordinator will liaise with the consultants to facilitate their activities and provide guidance to ensure that the consultants' activities are in line with the needs of the Ministry of Mines and Energy.

According to the bank, the consultants will be recruited in accordance with the bank's guidelines on the use of consultants.

Laos

Agreements on Cooperation With USSR Signed

BK0702144691 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 7 Feb 91

[Text] Yesterday, at the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, a ceremony was held by representatives of the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] and the Government of the Soviet Union to sign an agreement on the application of the new mechanism in bilateral economic relations, an agreement on trade and economic relations for this year, an agreement on the fundamental principles on clearing debts owed by the LPDR to the Soviet Union in accordance with the terms of state credits, and an exchange document on the exhange of goods for this year.

Signing the agreements on behalf of the Lao Government was Mrs. Khempheng Phonsena, deputy minister of foreign economic relations; and on behalf the Soviet Government was Mr. Osadchuk, deputy minister of foreign economic relations. Phao Bounnaphon, minister of foreign economic relations, and Mr. Georgiy Alekseyevich Rudov, Soviet ambassador to Laos, also attended the signing ceremony.

In addition, the Soviet Government has agreed to continue giving gratis aid to Laos in implementing various projects this year, such as by supplying equipment for setting up a laboratory, documents and technical equipment relating to teaching techniques, and some construction materials to the Polytechnics Institute; giving Laos some products and spare parts; sending a number of Soviet medical experts to be stationed at the 150-bed hospital; and continuing to cooperate with Laos in building the Nam Theun bridge on Route No. 8.

Friendship Group Supports Korean Reunification

BK2501095691 Vientiane KPL in English 0859 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Text] Vientiane, Jan 25 (KPL)—The Lao-Korean Friendship Association on Jan 20 issued a statement in

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support of the peaceful reunification of Korea and a new initiative forwarded by the Korean President Kim Il-song.

The statement, signed by its president, Maisouk Saisompheng, referred to the 1991 new year greetings of President Kim Il-song to his compatriots. The greetings contained a new initiative for the Korean peaceful reunification suggesting an establishment of a confederation with two different regimes, described as a form in accordance with the current reality on the Korean peninsula.

The initiative did not rule out the possibility of taking turn in assuming the seat of the Korean representative at the United Nations Organisation until the reunification in the form of confederation can be realised. By this initiative, the Lao-Korean Friendship Association wished for an early Korean reunification and hoped to see all sides concerned on Korean peninsula to exert their efforts for this cause.

Thai Minister Proposes More Tourism, Investment

BK0202044491 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 2 Feb 91 p 6

[Text] Thailand has proposed that Laos should allow more flights and open more border crossing points to promote tourism and investment between the two countries.

Deputy Foreign Minister Charat Phuachuai, who paid an official visit to Vientiane of Thursday and yesterday, proposed to his Laotian counterpart Souban Salithilat that Laos open flights between Bangkok and Luang Prabang and between Chiang Rai and Luang Prabang.

Laos may hire a Thai contractor to improve or expand its airports in Vientiane and Luang Prabang and pay with timber, rattan products or other goods instead of money.

Mr Charas also asked for the opening of two more border points—between Ubon Ratchathani and Champassak in Laos and between Chiang Saen District of Chiang Rai and Bokeo Province in Laos.

Mr Charat told Mr Soubanh Thailand wants to buy a lot of soybean, sesame seeds and coffee from Laos.

The Thai deputy foreign minister, who also met with Laotian Foreign Minister Phoune Sipaseuth, suggested that 100 to 200 Laotian women weavers be sent to Thailand to teach Thai women how to weave silk cloth.

He proposed that the two countries arrange more cultural exchanges such as football and takraw matches, homemade fireworks competitions, annual boat racing and molam music contests.

Conference To Assess Communications Work

BK0802111091 Vientiane KPL in English 0926 GMT 8 Feb 91

[Text] Vientiane, Feb 8 (KPL)—The first nation-wide conference on communication, transport, post, and construction will be held soon to assess achievements in all spheres.

According to facts released by the preparatory committee, over the past 15 years, there has been much effort put on the survey and construction of new roads such as secondary roads N [Nos.] 6, 7, 8, and 9 accessible to the sea to the east, in addition to the maintenance and rehabilitation of strategic roads, for instance, roads N 1, 2 and 13.

In line with the directives that the central and local levels as well as the state and people jointly take part in the work, interprovince and district roads were constructed and rehabilitated, hence facilitating communication between towns, rural and production areas.

In all 2,615 kilometres of roads were constructed and restored, 667 bridges including 26 large bridges (Nam Ngum, Nam Kading, Sedon, and Sebanghiang) were built anew, 44,700 kilometres of communication access were repaired and ensured, 180 bridges were repaired. To date the auto-roads with a total length of 13,971 kms have reached 16 provinces and 103 district across the country. The roads already asphalted cover 24 per cent of the total.

Along with the land road expansion all the means of river communication were utilised, such as Mekong river and its tributaries. This was made possible through determining water lanes, putting up navigational signs embankment, maintenance and construction of 5 new river ports including the Keng Kabao, Vientiane K [km marker No.] 4 and Tha Deua-Pak Hon ports the large and modern port facilities capable of moving tens of thousand tons of goods a year.

Also utilised and improved is air communication. All the existing air ports have been upgraded and its services improved. In addition, international flights have been opened to neighbouring countries (Vietnam, Cambodia and Thailand).

The international flights over the country's territory have been well managed. This bring to the country about 5 million dollars a year.

Philippines

Foreign Minister Says Iraq Asks for Support

HK0802062491 Hong Kong AFP in English 0600 GMT 8 Feb 91

[Text] Manila, Feb 8 (AFP)—Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz has sent letters to his counterparts across the

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Third World asking for "understanding and support" for Baghdad, Philippine Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus said here Friday.

He told a news conference two weeks after Manila expelled a senior Iraqi diplomat for alleged involvement in terrorism that Iraqi Ambassador Ali Sumaida handed him a "personal letter" from Mr. 'Aziz on Thursday.

Mr. Manglapus said similar letters were being sent to other foreign ministers in the Third World, and that it was a "reiteration of the arguments" raised by Iraq after it invaded and annexed Kuwait last August.

"It is an appeal for the Third World to understand the position of Iraq," he said, adding that Baghdad also sought "support of the Iraqi position."

"I did not detect in the letter any new proposal for peace, nor any indication of any softening (of Iraq's stand)," he added.

In the news conference, Mr. Manglapus confirmed that Manila had denied accreditation to an Iraqi diplomat, Sabah Saad, as part of its "prerogative" to set the size of any foreign mission.

Iraqi Consul-General Muwafak al-'Ani was booted out of the Philippines on January 24, five days after an Iraqi man was killed and another wounded when a bomb they were allegedly carrying to a U.S.-run library prematurely exploded.

Sources in the Iraqi Embassy here said Mr. Saad was supposed to serve as trade secretary and consul, and that he left Manila on Wednesday after the Philippine foreign office refused to accredit him.

"We used to be eight. Now we are only five. We have no consul. Who do you expect to be consul, the ambassador?" an embassy source said.

Two Iraqi students were also kicked out after being linked to the blast.

Mr. Manglapus declined to directly connect what he called the "exclusion" of Mr. Saad to the bombing, but said the "timing" of any decision to limit the size of any foreign mission was also a prerogative of Manila.

He said he was giving "serious consideration" to the 'Aziz letter.

On the Gulf war, Mr. Manglapus said he was told that members of a 200-man Philippine medical mission to Saudi Arabia had treated not only U.S. and other coalition troops but Iraqi prisoners of war as well.

The Philippines hosts major U.S. air and naval bases which have been used as jumping-off points for American troops, weapons and equipment sent to the Gulf.

Leftist Forces Said Helping Iraq With Uniforms

HK0802120591 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 8 Feb 91

[By Restie Dequiros of Mobile Unit No. 8]

[Text] Intelligence agents of the Philippine National Police [PNP] are closely monitoring military uniform makers who are reported to have connived with leftist forces who, in turn, have links with the Iraqi Government through Luis Jalandoni. The report that reached the office of PNP Director General Cesar Nazareno in Camp Crame says that the National Democratic Front [NDF] has ordered around 1 million sets of military combat uniforms which will be used by Iraqi regular soldiers and volunteers, as well as contract workers who will be forced to join Saddam Husayn's forces.

It is said that most of the military uniform makers are based in Metro Manila. Intelligence reports also claim that they have set up a hideout where they will make the uniforms. The textiles reportedly came from North Korea and were smuggled through the southern backdoor and northern Luzon. Reports say that the joint forces of the NDF and its military arm the New People's Army are taking advantage of the situation and they claim that their naval operations decreased in observance of the Aquino administration's energy conservation program.

Jalandoni is said to have offered Iraq a donation of combat uniforms in exchange for firearms which will be used for destabilization attempts. He also told Husayn that they will help the Iraqi Government fight the multinational forces led by the United States.

International Group Pledges Help for Gulf Workers

HK0802030991 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 8 Feb 91 pp 1, 8

[By Lito Zulueta and Booma Cruz]

[Text] The International Organization for Migration [IOM] yesterday assured President Aquino it would exert efforts to repatriate stranded Filipino workers in the Gulf.

Hector Charry-Samper, IOM deputy director general, made the assurances during a visit to Malacanang yesterday.

According to Foreign Undersecretary Manuel Yan, Mrs. Aquino thanked Samper for IOM's efforts and said the organization had been of "enormous help" to the country.

The IOM also promised to expand its assistance to the Philippines if funds from both the United Nations and donor countries would allow it.

Samper reportedly expressed concern over how IOM could sustain repatriation of Filipino workers and said the IOM was prepared to appeal to the international community for more funds.

He said the IOM was doing joint missions with the UN, and now has teams in Jordan, Syria and Iran, the most frequent destinations of people stranded in war-torn Gulf region.

Meanwhile in Marawi City, 8,000 Muslims chanted "Death to Bush," burned flags of the United States and Israel, and torched a life-size effigy of U.S. President George Bush at an anti-Gulf war rally yesterday.

The rally, organizers said, was the second in a series of protests by Maranaw Muslims aiming to put an end to the Middle East conflict.

Last Jan. 29, 10,000 Maranaw Muslims hit the streets to call for a withdrawal of the U.S.-led coalition forces in the Gulf.

The government has sent home Iraqi diplomat Sabbah Siddiqui Saad for his alleged links to terrorist bombings here.

Saad was supposed to have replaced Iraqi Consul General Muwafak al-'Ani, who was expelled earlier for the botched bombing of the Thomas Jefferson Cultural Center in Makati.

Labor Secretary Ruben Torres said the 62 Filipino workers who had recently fled from Baghdad to Tehran would leave for Manila on Monday and arrive here on Wednesday next week.

Torres also said another batch of 84 workers, mostly from the Arabian Oil Co. in Al Khafji, will arrive today from Saudi Arabia.

Alan Timbayan, labor attache in Riyadh, said most of the workers had taken the Cathay Pacific flight from Al-Khobar via Abu Dhabi and Hong Kong to Manila.

At least 173 Saudi-based Filipinos had returned to Manila since the war started.

Military Reveals Rightists' Assassination Plans

HK0802025191 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 8 Feb 91 p 9

[By Manny Mogato]

[Text] Military authorities yesterday revealed alleged plans by ultra rightist groups to assassinate ranking armed forces officials, including counter-intelligence agents.

Authorities said the killing of two agents of the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] counter-intelligence command in Makati last month couuld be part of the "covert" operations by the ultra- rightists.

The assassination theory, they asserted, was bolstered with the arrest of former PC [Philippine Constabulary] lieutenant colonel Victor Batac, its alleged mastermind.

Among the documents found in Batac's possession when he was arrested Wednesday in a townhouse in Makati was a sketch of the house of Col. Benjamin Libarnes, head of the AFPCIC [Armed Forces of the Philippines Counterinsurgency Command].

Libarnes, known as the rebel hunter, was responsible for the arrest of numerous right-wing rebels since the creation of the counter-intelligence command last year.

The sketch, according to military authorities, indicated "killing zones" where the target was most vulnerable from an attack by assassins.

The sketch also contained notes on Libarnes' pattern of movements as well as information on his household.

"It was possible that they had been watching Libarnes' movements for quite sometimes because the sketch included details which would require intense surveillance," an official of the AFPCIC said.

The military said it was also possible that the military rebels had a list of officers and soldiers targetted for assassination for their efforts to stop the ultra-rightists from planning and attempting to grab power.

Documents and other sketches found in Batac's rented apartment in Makati revealed plans by the military rebels to exploit the economic crisis by intensifying terroristic activities.

Batac, who is a classmate of rebel leader Gregorio Honasan, was implicated in both the August 1987 and December 1989 coup attempts. He had a P [peso] 1-million cash reward for his capture.

The military said at least 244 more officers and soldiers who had joined the military rebellion since 1986 remained at large.

One of them, air force colonel Reynaldo Samaco, is believed to have fled to the United States while others were contemplating to surrender, including army Capt. Allan Martin.

Meanwhile, there were reports that former army major Abraham Purugganan was arrested because his rivals in the YOU [Young Officers Union] had double-crossed him.

Purugganan, who used to be head of the YOU, was replaced by former constabulary captains Rafael Cardeno and Washington Javier after an intense power struggle.

Purugganan's leadership was challenged by the other YOU leaders because of his alleged links with radical and progressive groups.

The other rebels also criticized him for offering an alliance with communist guerrillas and for supplying the communist rebels with explosives which the rebels used during the Welgang Bayan [Nationwide Strike] last October.

Aquino, Manglapus Speculate on Bases Talks

HK0802023191 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 8 Feb 91 p 6

[Text] Talks on the future of the U.S. bases in the country will resume on Monday and President Aquino yesterday said she hopes it would be the last round.

Ms. Aquino also expressed confidence that the Senate will ratify the treaty that she hoped would be forged at the end of the fifth round of talks at the Central Bank building in Manila.

A treaty approved by two-thirds of the 23-member Senate, where anti-bases sentiment is strong, is required for the bases to remain or the U.S. military presence to continue after the current agreement expires on Sept. 16.

"We hope that this coming round of talks will be the last one and that a treaty will be forth-coming soon for presentation to the respective Senates of the two allies," Ms. Aquino said.

She said the Philippine panel headed by Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus was "working out what is in the best interests of our country."

"I believe that the Senate will be reasonable in its action on a treaty worked out in this manner," Ms. Aquino added.

The Philippine and U.S. panels concluded the fourth round of talks last January.

Meneleo Hernandez, chief of the press center of the Philippine American Cooperation Talks, said the fifth round will begin on Monday.

Hernandez said U.S. chief negotiator Richard Armitage is expected to arrive here over the weekend.

The Philippine panel has offered a five-year phase-out period for the bases but the U.S. wants 10 years.

Manglapus last week told the INQUIRER that Manila and Washington will likely agree on a five-year agreement similar to the U.S.-Spain treaty, with U.S. troops maintaining commercial access to the bases at the end of the period.

He also said that the RP [Republic of the Philippines] and U.S. panels had a "tacit understnding" that the fifth round of talks will be the last.

The U.S. maintains Clark Air Base, Subic Bay Naval Base—among the largest American overseas military facilities—and four smaller installations under a 1947 agreement.

Further on Bases Issues

HK0802102091 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 8 Feb 91

[By Rey Arquiza of Mobile Unit 21]

[Text] The criminal jurisdiction issue is a big obstacle in the U.S. bases talks. According to Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus, the Philippine panel will not deliberate on the matter if another issue is brought up favoring the Philippines. The fifth round of bases talks is scheduled next week at the Central Bank building. Both panels think they can reach a new agreement.

The U.S. panel's position on criminal jurisdiction remains firm. They want their soldiers who violate Philippine law to be accountable under U.S. law. The U.S. panel spokesman Stanley Schreger said that this law is followed on the 30 bases they have abroad. If this issue is settled, there is only one more major obstacle, that is the compensation issue. The latter is not as hot an issue as that of criminal jurisdiction.

Availment of Foreign Loans Rises

HK0102060391 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 1 Feb 91 p 2

[By Alex B. Reyes]

[Text] Availment of foreign loans in the first nine months last year reached $937.24 million, up 121.9% from $422.28 million in the same period in 1989, according to a status report by the National Economic and Development Authority's [NEDA] Project Monitoring Staff.

From the World Bank [WB], accounting for 38.5% of outstanding foreign aid, Government availed of $435.6 million in loans, a 76.1% increase from the 4247.3 million a year ago.

From the Japan Overseas Economic Cooperation fund [JOECF], which provides 33.6% of total aid, loans availed of reached $247.04 million, four times the 1989 level of $48.78 million.

Drawdowns from the Asian Development Bank [ADB] reached $215.34 million, double the $105.9 million the previous year, while those from other sources reached $39.26 million.

The report also showed that the country's capacity to absorb foreign aid further improved during the first nine months last year as the availment rate soared to 85% from 77.9% during the same period a year before.

The availment rate, defined as the ratio of actual loans used versus the scheduled availments, was highest for loans from the WB at 95.3%. ADB loans had an availment rate of 79.5%, OECF was at 75.3%, while other sources such as USAID, Spain and Frnace had a rate of 88.2%.

Loan Distribution

Of the 155 active foreign loans with a total commitment of $7.597 billion, 21.8% or $1.556 billion went to the energy, power and electrification sector. Projects related to water resources was the sector with the second largest commitment of funds, with $1.186 billion worth of active loans, while the transport sector had $1.146 billion.

It is expected that the report will strengthen the Philippines' hand during the Philippine Assistance Program [PAP] pledging session scheduled for February 24-26 in Hong Kong, during which the country hopes to obtain new loan commitments totalling $3-3.5 billion.

Previously, foreign donors had questioned the wisdom of providing additional aid to the Philippines because of its perceived low absorptive capacity.

Finance Secretary Jesus P. Estanislao, also chairman of the Coordinating Council for PAP, last year aid based on the higher loan availments, been solved because of its increased ability to implement foreign-assisted projects. [sentence as published]

He said the higher level of project implementation had been one main factor in the ballooning deficit, since Government had to provide increased peso-counterpart funds for the project.

Foreign Governments Raise Funds for Projects

HK0402051891 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 4 Feb 91 p 2

[By Ma. Gertrudez M. Chavez]

[Text] Foreign governments have raised funding allocations for various Philippine projects for the current fiscal year to about $85.3 million from an estimated $50 million, according to documents from the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA).

In addition, they have also opened more funding facilities for these ventures. A NEDA official said this is an indiation of the local projects' improving viability, specifically those involving livelihood programs as well as micro and small enterprises.

The Australian Government, for instance, has earmarked about $1.18 million (A$1.7 million [Australian dollars]) for the current fiscal year to support innovative programs for the poorest sectors of society. In 1986, the Australian Government allotted $236,200 (A$300,000). This was later increased to $472,440 (A$600,000).

By the fiscal year 1988-89, a total of $756,692 (A$961,029) were granted to local projects which were aimed at improving the socio- economic conditions of the urban poor.

The Canadian Government, on the other hand, has programmed a total of $12.9 million (C$15 million [Canadian dollars]) for the strengthening of non-government organizations (NGOs) of the Philippines. This Canadian grant, NEDA sources said, will respond to the capacity building needs of NGOs as institutions. Targetted projects by these NGOs using Canadian money include ventures which are sensitive to women's issues and concerns as well as those pertaining to environmental protection.

One component of the Canadian program is a development assistance program to assist the rural poor—tenants, farmers, sub-tenants, landless rural workers, small fishermen, cultural communities and upland farmers. It will also help the so-called special sectors of society—women of low-income families, out-of-school youth, homeless street children, the aged, and the handicapped.

Another Canadian initiative is what has been referred to as the "Canada Fund" aimed at poverty alleviation. For 1991, the Fund has committed financing of about $431,034 (C$500,000) for projects which are socio-economic in nature such as community development, women in development, health care, income generation and environment protection.

The Canadian Government has also vowed to help the sugar workers of Negros Occ. [Occidental] through the Negros Rehabilitation and Development Fund, with total allocations of $9.48 million (C$11 million).

Other Canadian projects are: a "water catchment system" for the provision of safe and potable water supply with total funding of $663,793 (C$770,000); non-formal education project $4.16 million (C$4.83 million) and the Davao Health Development Project, $3.12 million (C$3.62 million).

Japan has set up the Japanese Small-Scale Grant-Aid program primarily for activities geared towards the depressed areas. These include livelihood programs which would enable communities to become self-reliant. Indicative funding level for each project ranges from $30,000 to $50,000.

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has alloted abut $12.3 million for a wide range of specific activities such as agricultural policy and development cooperatives, human resources development, health care delivery, marine, agro- forestry, and micro-enterprise development.

Another USAID project is the Small Enterprise Credit Project with funding of $12.8 million. Other U.S.-initiated ventures are the Southern Mindanao Agricultural Program, $1.1 million; and the Central Cordillera Agricultural Program, $1.2 million.

The Dutch Government has set up the Dutch Rural Development Assistance Program for the rural communities, specifically to spearhead activities in agricultural production, and crop diverisification. Total commitments are placed at $12.5 million.

And finally, the German government has offered its NGOs to assist their Philippine counterparts.

Total funding available for the program is $13.5 million (DM20 million) as indicated by the German delegation during the RP[Republic of the Philippines]-FRG bilateral discussions.

Department Remarks on Middle East Trade

HK0502040291 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 5 Feb 91 p 6

[By staff member Johanna Son]

[Text] The department of Trade and Industry [DTI] sees "very little" trade opportunities with the Middle East, now that the Gulf war has sidetracked aggressive plans to hike exports to the region.

Testifying before the Senate committees on foreign relations and economic affairs, DTI Undersecretary Gloria Arroyo said: "The Gulf War was left us no choice but to adopt a wait and see attitude before pursuing our export development program."

The Philippines had aimed to boost exports to the Middle East this year in order to make up for some of its trade imbalance with countries there, which has reached negative $1 billion due to our heavy oil importation.

Out of its $8.2 billion export target for 1991, Arroyo said that DTI is targeting $160 million worth of exports to the Middle East, especially to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates.

Exports to the Mideast were planned to reach $250 million by 1995, but those projections are off because of the Gulf war, Arroyo added.

"There is very little opportunity for trade with the Middle East," she said.

Manila's imbalance with the Gulf nation makes up 30%, or a significant portion, of its total trade imbalance.

For 1991 and 1992, the DTI is targeting countries with "high purchasing power" and with unfavorable balance of trade with Manila. The Middle East falls under both categories.

Nevertheless, Arroyo said the DTI had identified goods that the Philippines could sell to the Middle East such as processed foods and marine products.

German Trade, Investments To Continue

HK0502040391 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 5 Feb 91 p 2

[By Andrew D. Magsambol]

[Text] Despite the rapid changes in Germany and the whole of Europe as well as the war in the Persian Gulf, German trade and investment interests in the Philippines will continue, Michael Mauer, first commercial secretary of the German Embassy, told BUSINESS WORLD.

"The Germans realize increasingly the importance of this region. The Philippines and Asian region will not be neglected even with the restructuring of East Germany where many investments both from Germany and many countries in Europe are pouring into. This is not just a personal opinion or an expression of the usual government optimism. This is what German industries have sigified," he said.

Based on trade figures for the first nine months of 1990 furnished by the German Embassy, Philippine exports to Germany reached DM698 million (about $465.6 million) as compared to the 1989 total of DM927 million (about $618.3 million), indicating no significant change based on extrapolation.

FIRST TIME

The statistics indicated a trade deficit of $41.3 million as Philippine imports reached $506.92 million. In 1989, RP [Republic of the Philippines] enjoyed a surplus of $46 million with Germany and even more so during the earlier years when the surpluses exceeded the $100-million mark. This marks the first time in more than 10 years that Philippines has incurred a deficit with Germany. Mr Mauer said traditionally developing countries have always maintained a trade surplus with Germany whose bulk of exports go to the European Community and other European countries.

The German counsellor attributed the trade deficit to the surge in Philippine imports (and not to a major change in German purchases from RP) which he said is not expected to hold up this year because of the economic situation. A more balanced trade, thus, can be expected this year, he said.

Major exports of Philippines to Germany are garments (26% of the total in the first semester last year), electrotechnical products, edible oil, fruits, technical oils and fats and fish products.

On the other hand, primary commodities imported from Germany include electrical products (26% of the total), machinery (27%), plastics, colorings, pharmaceuticals and motor vehicles.

INVESTMENTS

Meanwhile German investments in the Philippines, based on the Board of Investments-approved equity investments under Executive Order 226, also went down for the first 11 months of 1990 as compared to the year ago level. The total was P [peso] 112,480 or 65% lower than 1989's figure of P321,980.

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NO MISSIONS

There are no German trade missions scheduled to arrive in the country as of now but Mr Mauer said this is no indication of lack of enthusiasm on the part of the German businessmen. "Germans are a bit different in that respect. Instead of a big delegation, the practice is to send individual representatives from the private companies to scout for opportunities here," he said.

The German counsellor reiterated that German interests will continue despite the recorded slowdown.

Just recently, he said three joint ventures in the industries of seaweed production, garment and paper have been completed, indicating the unhampered interest of German investors in the country. The Philippines will also benefit from the interst of the Germans in the Asian region, he added.

Just how and how big the Philippines can corner "a slice of the cake" will depend on the business climate, he said.

While declining to give more details, he said, "we feel that in order to be competitive in the region—something must be done to improve the situation like in the area of investment legislation, among other things.

Manila Seeks Debt Rescheduling With Paris Club

HK0402050891 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 4 Feb 91 p 8

[By Rexie M. Reyes]

[Text] The Philippines will ask the Paris Club for a deferment of payment on some $1.0 billion in debts falling due from June 30 this year to July 31, next year, a Department of Finance official said.

A deferment of payment or rescheduling agreement will be requested from the Paris Club to prevent a substantial reduction in the country's foreign exchange reserves this year.

The request is expected to be brought up by Finance Secretary Jesus P. Estanislao and Central Bank [CB] Gov. Jose L. Cuisia Jr. in their visit to Paris and London this week.

The debts to be paid starting June this year are composed of those previously rescheduled under the first round of talks with the Paris Club in 1986 and are now maturing, and those availed of under the previous administration which are maturing now, the source said.

The most recent debt rescheduling agreement reached with the Paris Club ws the 1989 multi-year restructuring agreement covering some $2.2 billion principal debts and overdue interest payments falling due from September 1988 to June 30 this year.

Under this recent agreement or third round of negotiations for resheduling with the Paris Club, the Philippines was given a one- year goodwill clause which entitled it to an extension of its rescheduling agreement until July 30 next year.

According to CB sources, the government, if it avails itself of the goodwill clause, can start payments in 1992 instead of this year.

However, due to the changes in the country's economic programs with the drawing up of a new program with the International Monetary Fund, the government, through the Philippine debt panel, is considering a new agreement with the Paris Club which shall cover not only those debts falling due from June 30 this year to July 31 next year, but also those due August 1992, the finance department source said.

The extension of the coverage of the new rescheduling agreement to be negotiated was considered in the light of the new IMF program which is expected to be in effect until August 1992, the finance official said.

The Paris Club is one of the country's major bilateral creditor. It is composed of 17 creditor governments to which the Philippines owes certain amounts. The three largest creditors in this club are Japan, the U.S. and Germany, sources from the Central Bank said.

Central Bank Chief Outlines Goals for 1991

HK0102054791 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 1 Feb 91 pp 1, 5

[By Ma. Gertrudes M. Chavez]

[Text] Monetary policies for the rest of the year will be aimed at achieving less volatile interest rates, lower inflation rate, a steady growth in gross national product, reduction of debt service, lower external account deficit and higher gross international reserves.

This was the gist of a speech written by Central Bank [CB] Governor Jose L. Cuisia, Jr and read before members of the Philippine Futuristics Society by CB Deputy Governor Gabriel Singson.

The CB head wrote that to attain these objectives, monetary policy should remain tight until after the inflation rate has been reduced and controls on the fiscal deficit have been set. But he foresees an "easing of the current tight monetary situation as inflation is brought under control." Monetary authorities believe that inflation will go down by midyear.

Inflation rate, as measured by the consumer price index (CPI), averaged 12.7% last year, up from 10.6% in the comparable period in 1989. The inflation rate target, set in 1989, was 8% for 1990.

The higher inflation rate was ascribed to the spillover effects of the wage increases in 1989 and 1990, the killer earthquake in July last year, including the period's

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prolonged drought. This caused lower agricultural production, power shortages and, eventually, the fuel price hikes in September and December.

For this reason, the CB shall keep on relying on open market operations, using Treasury bills and its own CB bills as principal instruments.

On the external front, the CB official stressed that a progressively liberal trade and investment environment will be pushed. Competitiveness, he said, will be maintained under a floating exchange rate system where the changes in the international value of the peso will follow the movements in domestic and foreign prices.

Foreign exchange market reforms will include expanding the number of participants in foreign exchange trading as well as the volume of transactions to reflect a rate that is more representative of the market.

But CB participation in the foreign exchange market will be limited to meeting its international reserve targets and to arresting short-run fluctuation due to speculation.

Another tool to be pursued by the CB is the debt-to-equity conversion scheme using CB debt papers. The revised guidelines for the program were issued to lessen the inflationary impact, Mr Cuisia said.

The CB shall auction off some $900 million CB convertible debt over a three-year period. Initially, the CB will sell $75 million worth of CB debt papers.

The inflow of more overseas contract worker's (OCW) remittances will also get priority attention, Mr Cuisia said. Maintaining a competitive exchange rate, and encouraging commercial banks to design and implement programs more financially rewarding to contract workers and their beneficiaries will be pursued.

Monetary authorities will also provide more incentives to local exporters who face growing competition not only from the ASEAN nations but also from other countries which are aggressively pushing for exports.

With respect to the financial system, the CB said it will encourage competitiveness. These will be undertaken through further liberalization of branching regulations, spurring the entry of new commercial banks including joint ventures with foreign banks, mergers and acquisitions.

There would be lower intermediation costs for banks, the CB promised, to enable these institutions to bring down lending rates. To achieve this, liquidity levels would be properly monitored.

Finally, a more rigid bank supervision and regulation will also be a major concern. The CB is currently conducting studies on how to improve bank reporting requirements, asset valuation and loan loss provisioning, treatment of trust account investments, and accounting principles.

Navy Announces Personnel Dismissals

HK0802023591 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 8 Feb 91 p 7

[By Omar M. Acosta]

[Text] The Philippine Navy yesterday announced the dismissal of 282 enlisted personnel and the demotion of six officers for various offenses ranging from illegal possession of firearms to absence without leave (AWOL).

Rear Admiral Mariano J. Dumancas, PN [Philippine Navy] flag officer-in-command, said the dismissal was in line with is command's move to "get rid of the scalawags in the service."

"There is no place for undisciplined people in our ranks, and they must be pinpointed immediately before they can do damage to the name of the organization," he said. "The cleansing process is aimed at further professionalizing the Navy being a highly technical service." [sentence as published].

Dummancas said that aside from the 282 dismissed personnel, the PN also demoted by a rank 182 enlisted personnel and reprimanded 144 others. He warned erring personnel that they will be dealt with accordingly.

Records provided by Capt. Jaime Bartolo, assistant chief of naval staff for personnel (N-1), showed that some of the major cases that were committed by the dismissed personnel include mutiny, frustrated murder, homicide, malversation of public funds and smuggling committed last year.

Meanwhile, Dumancas reminded the various unit commanders to take care of the morale, welfare and discipline of naval personnel. "This is the basic things that we should not forget because after all, they are the primary resources of the organization," Dumancas said.

Armed Forces Chief Remarks on Rightist Threat

HK0802023791 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 8 Feb 91 pp 1, 19

[By Aris Ilagan]

[Text] Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Biazon, Armed Forces chief of staff, vowed yesterday to arrest the remaining leaders of the Reform the Armed Forces Movement-Young Officers Union (RAM-YOU) to end the ultra-rightist military threat in the country.

"I will get them one by one," Biazon said as he revealed that military operatives are continuously combing suspected hideouts of RAM-YOU leaders in several undisclosed parts of Metro Manila.

He was referring to still at large RAM-YOU leaders like renegade officers Gregorio Honasan, Red Kapunan, Domingo Calajate, Felix Turingan, and Alex Cerdeno.

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Biazon also disclosed that one rebel leaders, who carries a P [peso] 100,000 price for his capture, managed to escape military dragnet hours after ex-Lt. Col. Victor Batac and ex-Maj. Abraham Purugganan were captured in Makati last Wednesda. The identity of the RAM-YOU leader, however, was not revealed.

Meanwhile, Brig. Gen. Raul Imperial of General Court Martial No. 9 formally read the tribunal's verdict to Purugganan, sentencing him to 12 years imprisonment for his participation in the August 1987 failed coup attempt.

Purugganan, who was tried in absentia, was among the 81 officers and enlisted personnel sentenced to jail by General Court Martial No. 9 last Dec. 21 in connection with the 1987 coup try.

Purugganan was also tagged as the leader of the Scout Ranger rebels who seized several high-rise buildings in Makati during the failed December 1989 uprising.

When asked if Purugganan will be transferred to the National Penetentiary in Muntinlupa, Biazon said the "he is still under the jurisdiction of the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines]."

Purugganan has been detained at the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (ISAFP) headquarters where he has been undergoing tactical interrogation, Biazon said.

Military authorities said that the arrest of Batac and Purugganan, who both carried P1-million rewards for their capture, can be the realization of a "domino theory" wherein the capture of one or two key rebel leaders will eventually lead to the arrest of the others.

Ex-Lt. Col. Billy Bibit, another RAM leader, was captured by military operative in Muntinlupa last Jan. 17.

Batac, whose younger brother Army Lt. Vicente Batac allegedly participated in the failed military mutiny in Northern Mindanao last Oct. 4, was also detained at the ISAFP.

The older Batac was charged with rebellion under Republic Act 6869, the new anti-coup d'etat law, for his involvement in the aborted bombing of government aircraft at Basa Air Base in Pampanga last Dec. 21.

Biazon also said the 10 civilians tagged as supporters of RAM-YOU members are under tight watch by the military. He refused to identify them, only saying that most of them are businessmen.

But he pointed out that the military is still strengthening the evidence against the suspected civilian supporters of the rebel soldiers to warrant their arrest.

Israeli Experts To Help Achieve Land Reform

HK0402051491 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 4 Feb 91 p 9

[Text] Israel, whose "kibbutzims" or agricultural settlements have set a world precedent in agrarian reform development, will be sending experts to help make agrarian reform in the Philippines a success.

In a press statement yesterday, Agrarian Reform Secretary Benjamin Leong said the arrival of the experts is in line with four agreements he had forged with the Afro-Asian Institute of Israel during a visit to the Middle East last December.

The agreements cover different forms to assistance to the Philippine government's agrarian reform program and its efforts to achieve food-sufficiency:

—The sending of Israeli agricultural technologists and experts to the Philippines to train farmers, DAR [Department of Agrarian Reform] personnel and private organizations in planning and operating settlements.

—Assistance by the experts to the agrarian reform department in formulating and implementing livelihood projects for the beneficiaries of the government's agrarian reform program.

—Training of personnel of the agrarian reform department in cooperative and community development and delivery of support services to communities in rural areas.

—Sending of the middle-level managers of the agrarian reform office to Israel for short-term training on land reform, new technologies on food production and the operations of an agrarian reform system.

Leong, citing Israeli success in using desert areas for agricultural production, said Israeli assistance would immensely boost the government Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program which is already entering its third year of implementation.

The agrarian reform secretary added that Israel was interested in expanding trade relations with the Philippines, particularly in the importation of Filipno-made dried fish and handicrafts.

During his visit, Leong noted Israel's successful cooperatives in the kibbutzims of Shefaim, N of Ginusar and Kefar Tabur, as well as successful farming techniques in Kefar Dabures.

Agricultural Sector Reports Earnings Growth

HK0702035891 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 7 Feb 91 p 8

[By Grace C. Sison]

[Text] Despite the overall production slowdown reported by the agricultural sector brought about by the series of natural calamities that hit the country last year, the group managed to post a 3.08 percent growth in earnings compared to the 1989 level, the Bureau of Agricultural Statistics [BAS] recently reported.

In its yearend final estimate report, the BAS said the aggregate value of agricultural production, at constant 1985 prices, amounted to P [peso] 197.003 billion last year. This showed a P5.878-billion rise from the P191.125-billion earnings registered the previous year.

A BAS source explained that the overall gain of the sector was recorded by three subgroups, namely livestock, poultry and fishery whose performance was bolstered by the higher prices of many commodities. "The increase in the three sub-groups helped cushion the decline in agriculutral crops and contributed largely to the growth in the combined value of agriculture," he said.

The poultry subsector led the group as it notched a 10.51 percent growth in production value from P19.934 billion in 1989 to P22.03 billion.

Meanwhile, the livestock group exhibited an increase of 8.61 percent from P23.344 billion to P25.355 billion as the fishery group reported an improvement of 6.18 percent from P36.426 billion to P38.678 billion.

While the three subsectors enjoyed significant gains last year, the agricultural crops group was hard hit by successive calamities which pulled down its production value. Production of agricultural crops, comprising the bulk or 56.31 percent of the total, fell by 0.43 percent from P111.421 billion to P110.94 billion.

One source explained that the series of calamities—the drought, July 16 killer earthquake, typhoons—devastated the agricultural farms in the major crop-producing provinces, thus resulting in lower earnings.

Except for the corn, coconut and tobacco groups, all the major crops suffered declines in their production values with the highest drop of 14.10 percent recorded by coffee. Palav, the country's leading staple, also suffered a big blow last year as its production value fell by 1.47 percent from P31.306 billion to P30.846 billion.

In terms of volume, agricultural crops also suffered a drop of 0.95 percent from 60.326 million metric tons in 1989 to 59.753 million metric tons last year. This decline, however, was still considered a "progression" from the 5.76 percent drop exhibited in 1989.

The three other groups reported an aggregate production volume of 64.484 million metric tons in 1990.

Biazon Files Charges Against Rebel Colonel Bibit

HK0602154291 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 6 Feb 91

[By Juan Bayani]

[Text] Military officials formally filed a case today against dismissed Lieutenant Colonel Billy Bibit for illegal possession of firearms in furtherance of rebellion. Bibit is a primary suspect in the December 1989 coup.

The officials said that this is to prove that they are pursuing their court battles with the rebel soldiers. Lieutenant General Rodolfo Biazon, Armed Forces chief of staff, endorsed the case against Bibit to the office of Justice Secretary Franklin Drilon. Bibit is known to be operations officer of the former Reformed the Armed Forces Movement, Kawal ng Sambayanang Pilipino [Soldiers of the Filipino Masses], and Young Officers Union. Biazon said that Bibit has a standing arrest order for his participation in the December 1989 coup attempt and other rebellious activities. It was alleged that Bibit masterminded the raids at the Bureau of Customs armory while the December 1989 coup was ongoing, and at the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] Medical Center last September 8. He was arrested by elements of the National Capital Region Defense Command.

Biazon Remarks on Legalizing Communist Party

HK0702011791 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 6 Feb 91

[Text] Lieutenant General Rodolfo Biazon disclosed today that he is amenable to a proposal to legalize the Communist Party of the Philippines [CPP], however he stressed that they should first surrender all their firearms.

According to General Biazon, it will not be just for the Filipino people to legitimize their existence while they keep their arms with them. He also said it is not just to allow the legal CPP to carry firearms with them while other legal political parties have not been and are not now allowed to do so.

Bataan Said Clear of Communist Rebels

HK0802025791 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 8 Feb 91 p 8

[By Fred P. Molina]

[Text] Balanga, Bataan—Bataan, the last bastion of freedom fighters in World War II, is the first province in the country cleared of insurgency.

This was revealed by Gov. Leonardo B. Roman in his report on the gains of Bataan last year in the "Ugnayan sa Bataan" at the "Bulwagan ng Kapayapaan" in this town.

Rep. Felicito C. Payumo (LP [Liberal Party], 1st Dist., Bataan) and Rep. Enrique T. Garcia (LDP [Struggle of

Philippine Democrats], 2nd Dist., Bataan) also reported on their performance in the House of Representatives.

Roman said Defense Secretary Fidel V. Ramos was expected in a few days to make the announcement on the insurgency status of Bataan, once known as the hotbed of dissidents.

He said the defense secretary had told him about the province when they met in Manila while he was following up important matters for Bataan.

Roman said the report was made by authorities of the Department of National Defense and the Armed Forces based on reports from the evaluation committee.

He said the evaluation committee, composed of senior officers of the Armed Forces, conducted on-the-spot surveys and studies on the insurgency situation in each province.

Lt. Col. Enrique B. Galang Jr., junior superintendent of the Philippine National Police (PNP) in Bataan, confirmed that Bataan is already free from communist rebels.

Galang said local communists make people believe that they are numerically big with an "impressive organizational structure" in Bataan, but they exist only on paper.

He said Bataan has the best peace and order situation in Central Luzon and local and foreign investors will find the place conducive to any kind of business.

Thailand

Muslim Leader Calls Terrorist Alert 'Exaggerated'

BK0802012391 Bangkok THE NATION in English 8 Feb 91 p A4

[Text] Thailand's Muslim spiritual leader Chulaatchamontri said on Wednesday that no Thai Muslims would resort to terrorist activities in support of Iraq.

He told THE NATION after an Islamic seminar at the Wiang Tai Hotel that he believed most Muslims in the world would not heed Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's call for a terrorist campaign against Western interests worldwide. "We are civilized people," he said.

The Islamic leader also suggested that international warnings about terrorist activities might have been exaggerated and aimed at discrediting the Muslim world as a whole. He said that no more than 5 percent of Thailand's 6-7 million Muslims support Iraq in its occupation of Kuwait and war against a US-led international coalition.

Attendants of the seminar called on Deputy Prime Minister Gen Mana Rattanakoset at Government House after the end of the seminar yesterday.

Malaysian Party Denies Distributing Leaflets

BK0802015391 Bangkok THE NATION in English 8 Feb 91 p A5

[By Sonny Inbaraj and Kunlachada Chaiphiphat]

[Text] A Malaysian Muslim fundamentalist opposition party yesterday denied reports it was distributing Thai-language leaflets in southern Thailand to recruit Thai Muslim volunteers to fight for Iraq against the US-led coalition forces in the Gulf war.

In a telephone interview with The Nation, Parti Islam Malaysia (PAS) Information Chief Haji Subky Latiff in Kuala Lumpur said he was in the dark about the leaflets which were found in the southern border provinces of Thailand by Thai military intelligence.

"We are not interested in fanning any Muslim sentiments in southern Thailand and this allegation goes against our earlier stand of wanting to maintain ASEAN solidarity with our immediate neighbours," Haji Subky said.

"We want to maintain economic ties with Bangkok for Thai investment in Kelantan state and we're not that shortsighted to want to jeopardize it by distributing leaflets calling for volunteers from Thailand to fight for Iraq," he added.

Haji Subky said PAS's current drive calling for volunteers to fight for and do relief and medical work in Iraq was only limited to areas in its "sphere of influence." "If Muslims in other neighbouring countries want to support us, all we can say is thank you. They, however, cannot be taken on as volunteers because it would mean that we're interfering in the affairs of other countries.

"We don't want Bangkok to misunderstand us as PAS will be sending an economic mission to Thailand quite soon," Haji Subky said.

The PAS information chief said he did not know who was responsible for the leaflets and added that it was an attempt to strain relations between Malaysia and Thailand by using the party's name.

According to an AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE report on Wednesday, the leaflets were distributed by the Kesatuan Rakyat Selatan Thai or Unity of the People in South Thailand (UPST), an outlawed Muslim fundamentalist group. The report quoted Thai military intelligence sources as saying UPST had ties with PAS.

Haji Subky said PAS was aware of UPST and treated it as one of the many Muslim organizations it has "formal" ties with all over the world. "PAS is based on the fundamentals of Islam and it is only natural for us to know of other Muslim groups in the region. But to say we are using UPST to distribute leaflets in South Thailand is totally unwarranted and uncalled for," said Haji Subky.

"Traditionally Malaysia and Thailand have enjoyed good diplomatic and cultural ties and I stress that PAS will never come in the way of breaking those ties by encouraging separatism in southern Thailand," he said.

The government of the northeastern peninsular Malaysian state of Kelantan bordering southern Thailand is led by PAS.

According to a report in a Bangkok-based newspaper on Wednesday, the Thai-language leaflets bore the seal of PAS and said Baghdad had assigned the party to recruit Muslim volunteers in Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, the Philippines and Burma to fight against "infidels." The report also said the leaflets offered a reward of 20,000 ringgits (Bt185,000) for each Thai Muslim volunteer who signed up with the party in Kelantan state. On the reward for Thai Muslims signing up, Haji Subky said that was too "far-fetched."

"Though we have a membership of about 300,000, our funds are limited as we are a grassroots party. From where are we going to get 20,000 ringgits for each Thai Muslim volunteer?"

A Thai Foreign Ministry official who did not want to be named said the government would interfere with the alleged PAS-inspired recruitment only if it posed a threat to security in the country. The official said the Thai government's policy all along was to allow people to conduct their actions according to their religious beliefs.

"We cannot bar the Muslims in the South from fighting for Iraq, if they intend to, as long as they have legal travelling documents," he said. The official however said Thai authorities would be very cautious in handling the issue because it was related to the Islamic religion and the ministry had instructed the Thai General-Consulate in Kota Baru to monitor the situation.

A Malayisan embassy source in Bangkok said the allegations against PAS were serious and could cause "suspicions" between Malaysia and Thailand. The embassy source did not discount the possibility that a small group of people might be out to cause rifts between the two countries.

"We're monitoring this situation very closely as it involves diplomatic ties with our immediate neighbour," said the source.

Since last month, the fundamentalist party has gone on a recruitment drive for Malaysian volunteers to go to Iraq, and so far the party has signed up 2,500 people.

Foreign Minister To Complete ASEAN Tour

BK0802015991 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 8 Feb 91 p 3

[Text] Foreign Minister Athit Urairat said yesterday he will complete his tour of ASEAN capitals before the end of this month, and will visit Vietnam and Burma next month.

Dr Athit will visit Brunei February 13-14, the Philippines February 15-16, and Indonesia February 17-18. He said he would discuss preparations for the ASEAN leaders' summit, tentatively scheduled for the end of this year in Singapore.

Later this month, from February 25-28, he will visit China.

Official Says Burmese Rebels Robbing Trawlers

BK0602032991 Bangkok THE NATION in English 6 Feb 91 p A3

[Text] More than 50 Thai fishing trawlers have been robbed or subject to extortions by armed minority rebels in Burma over the past six months, a senior fishery official said yesterday.

Plotprasop Suratsawadi, director general of the Fisheries Department, said the Thai fishing industry feels terrorized by the armed rebels and urged the government to take action to deal with the problem. "Thai fishermen should not be subject to harassments by outlaws," said Plotprasop.

Plotprasop said skippers of some of the Thai trawlers robbed by armed rebels were attacked and killed. He said most of the cases took place in Burmese waters opposite southern Thailand.

In one of the boldest acts so far, a group of armed Burmese student dissidents recently hijacked and later blew up a tuna fishing boat off Ranong after its owner failed to pay a Bt [baht] 5 million ransom.

Plotprasop said that after the latest incident, Thai authorities formally asked Rangoon to provide more security for Thai trawlers fishing under concessions in Burmese waters. He quoted his Burmese counterpart who was in Bangkok recently that Burmese authorities would map out security measures for Thai fishing fleet.

The Karens, one of the various minority groups fighting against Rangoon, in December, threatened to attack Thai fishermen fishing under concessions granted by the military regime in Rangoon.

Burmese authorities in Myawaddy yesterday returned to their Thai owners property allegedly robbed by Burmese soldiers from a Thai village in Mae Sot of Tak province recently. The items include two motorcycles, one TV set and one air pump.

Burmese soldiers allegedly raided Baan Mae Kone Ken Mai village in Mae Sot late last month and robbed six families. Burmese authorities denied they were soldiers. They told Thai officials who crossed into Myawaddy yesterday that they were probably local Burmese villagers who had been at odds with the Thais across the border. Thai officials yesterday demanded Bt360,000 in what they claimed to be compensatiion for the raid. The Burmese counter-demanded Bt1 million for the death of four Burmese whom they said were killed by Thai villagers a day before the raid. They reached no agreement on the questiion of compensations yesterday.

Ministry To Send Illegal Burmese to Holding Camp

BK0802022791 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 8 Feb 91 p 7

[Text] All Burmese living illegally in Thailand must report to the Interior Ministry's Displaced Persons Centre beginning on April 1 to be sent to a holding camp in Ratchaburi.

Strict legal action will be taken against those ignoring the order, which will be officially announced soon, Deputy Permanent Secretary Chamnan Photchana said.

The order is part of a plan to prevent Burmese who have entered the country illegally from carrying out political activities that could undermine Bangkok's relations with Rangoon.

Mr Chamnan said the Interior Ministry would use government funds to convert an old Border Patrol Police camp in Ratchaburi into a holding camp that will be able to hold 500 Burmese initially.

Several Burmese who have rented houses in the Bangkok area and receive financial support from international relief organisations will be among the first batch of people sent to the camp, Mr Chamnan said. The Ratchaburi camp will be bigger than the Immigration Police detention centre in Bangkok, which is normally used to hold immigration law breakers.

Meanwhile, Immigration Police confirmed that police forcibly broke up a Burmese protest at the detention centre in Soi Suan Plu after it turned violent on January 29. Some 36 Burmese being held at the centre for illegal entry had demanded that they be free to travel to third countries.

Police decided to use force to end the protest after the Burmese began throwing glasses and other objects at the centre, which holds about 200 other foreigners. The Burmese claim that about 20 of them were singled out after the protest, handcuffed and beaten by policemen.

Prasit Chaithongphan, deputy Labour Department chief, said a meeting of provincial labour office chiefs yesterday and today is discussing the illegal entry and employment of Burmese.

Thailand allows Burmese nationals to enter and work in certain jobs in nine provinces bordering Burma, but officials have found that many Burmese have illegally settled in other parts of the country.

The number of illegal immigrants and Burmese settlers has reportedly risen to 30,000 from 17,000 in March 1976.

Thailand has some 125,000 foreign residents, including about 103,500 in Bangkok.

EGAT Denies Responsibility for Lao ‘Rebuff’

BK0802024591 Bangkok THE NATION in English 8 Feb 91 p A2

[Text] The Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand (EGAT) was not responsible for the failure of a trip this week by the 58 members of the House Committee on Science, Energy and Technology to Laos' Nam Ngum hydro-electric damn, an EGAT official said yesterday

The director general of the state enterprise's public relations department, Suphin Panyamak, said the committee's poor coordination with the Foreign Ministry was to blame for the delegation's rebuff by Lao officials upon their entry into the country on Wednesday.

The MPs [members of Parliament], headed by chairman Sanoe Phungchiam, were told by Lao immigration officials upon their arrival by ferry at the Tha Duea dock opposite Nong Khai that they would not be allowed to proceed on their observation tour of the dam. Some of the MPs ordered the ferry to take them back to Nong Khai in protest while others made a tour of Vientiane instead.

Sanoe had blamed the failure of the trip on a lack of familiarity on the part of EGAT, which was responsible for coordinating the trip, with Lao bureaucratic practice. But Suphin said yesterday that EGAT had fulfilled its part by contacting its Laotian counterpart and had even reminded the committee to ask the Foreign Ministry to coordinate with the Lao Government about the trip.

A Foreign Ministry source said the ministry was informed of the trip only after the delegation left Bangkok, adding that the committee had simply asked that the Thai Embassy in Vientiane facilitate their trip. The source said the ministry had informed the embassy but had not been aware that the trip had not been approved by Vientiane.

The embassy officials were present at Tha Duea dock to receive the group but they had not asked the Lao authorities to allow the group to travel to Nam Ngum.

The source said the committee should have informed the ministry of the trip earlier so that it could coordinate with the Lao Foreign Ministry about granting them the visit.

China Hoping for Railroad Linkup Through Burma

BK0802083591 Bangkok THE NATION in English 8 Feb 91 p A5

[Text] Chiang Rai—China has begun the construction of a railroad from the heart of Yunnan south towards Chiang Rai and hopes that the Thai side will also extend its rail route northward to the border district of Mae Sai for a possible link-up through Burma in the future, a senior local Chinese official said.

Yunnan Deputy Governor Li Suji was quoted as expressing the hope at a meeting in Chiang Rai with senior local officials led by governor Bannasit Salapsaeng. Chiang Rai's leading businessmen were also present at the bilateral talks yesterday, according to a public relations official of the provincial administration.

The two sides agreed that Yunnan and Chiang Rai people had developed their "friendship" to a point where they can enhance bilateral and local cooperation. The Thai side proposed the formation of a joint commission representing the two local administrations to discuss ways to remove obstacles to closer contacts and cooperation, the public relations official said.

The Yunnan deputy governor, meanwhile, assured the Thai side that the Chinese were also determined to cooperate with their Thai counterparts to turn the border region, which also straddles a portion of Burma's Shan State, into an area of prosperity in the interest of all concerned.

Li said the Mekong River, which flows from Yunnan through to the Thai-Lao border, air transportation and a possible rail link should be utilized to promote regional trade and contacts. He also informed the Thai delegation that the Yunnan administration had started extending its rail network from the heart of the province to Sipsong Panna not far north of Chiang Rai.

With the completion of the project, the railroad in Yunnan will only be about 300 kms from Chiang Rai, the deputy governor said. He said that it was his administration's policy to promote Chiang Rung, the capital of Sipsong Panna, as a centre of tourism. The commercial airport at the town is large enough to accommodate Boeing 737 flights, he added. If the Thai side extended its railroad to Chiang Rai and Mae Sai district, a rail link-up would be possible in the future, he said.

Li, however, said that such a link-up needed the participation of Burma because the transnational rail route would have to go through Burma's Shan State. He also said that trade between Yunnan and Chiang Rai would be given a boost if Burma allows the use of a road linking Yunnan's border with that of the Thai northern-most province.

Yunnan's southern border road runs from Kunming through Chiang Rung, ending at the Chinese-Burmese border at Palua village, just 170 kms north of Chiang Rai, the deputy governor reported. Chinese authorities, he said, had earlier surveyed boat transportation possibilities on the Mekong River and found that the waterway was usable eight months every year, Li said.

The only way to make the waterway a year-round transportation route was to spend millions of dollars to remove numerous islets along the river, the deputy governor said. He said that Yunnan was endowed with valuable mineral ores and natural resources, including tin, zinc, timber and phosphorous which can be used to produce chemical fertilizer. Its cement output is also greater than the local demand, he added. The rail link-up with northern Thailand would greatly facilitate the transportation of Yunnan's exports, he told the Thai delegates.

The private sector in Chiang Rai and the State Railway of Thailand [SRT] had earlier agreed on the concept of the rail link-up and are pushing for the extension of the SRT's rail network in the North to Chiang Rai. The project to construct a rail route from Den Chai in Phrae to Chiang Rai has won strong support from Chiang Rai MP [Member of Parliament] Songtham Panyadi and Deputy Communications Minister Prathuan Rommayanon, both members of the Chat Thai Party. Communications Minister Samak Suntharawet of the Prachakon Thai Party recently voiced approval of the project also.

Chatchai Establishes Rice Policy Committee

BK2401074991 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0530 GMT 24 Jan 91

[Text] Prime Minister General Chatchai Chunhawan has signed an order of the Prime Minister's Office appointing a 20-member Rice Policy and Measures Committee.

Appointed chairman of the committee is Deputy Prime Minister Chaloemphan Siwikon, while the commerce minister, the finance minister, the agriculture and cooperatives minister, and the interior minister have been made vice chairmen.

The setting up of the committee is to promote efficiency in implementing government policies to solve the problem of rice prices. The committee is empowered to draw up and propose the rice policy and measures to the Cabinet—both in the short- and long-term—to control, coordinate, and follow up on the implementation of the policy and measures, and to solve various problems and remove operational obstacles.

Editorial Views Removal of National Police Chief

BK2301054191 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 23 Jan 91 p 4

[Editorial: "Police Must Fight Crime, Not Themselves"]

[Text] In recent months Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan has come under widespread criticism for failing to deal with a string of problems that long plagued his previous administration. Much of the flak stemmed from his inability or lack of resolve to stamp out corruption.

Therefore it was a pleasant surprise to see the prime minister prove he is capable of making tough decisions when he ordered the removal of Pol Gen [Police General] Sawaeng Thirasawat as national police chief yesterday.

According to Gen Chatchai, Gen Sawaeng is being replaced to improve the overall performance and image of the Police Department. The premier's decision is a welcome one in view of the growing public criticism of the police and disturbing reports of bickering in the Crime Suppression Division [CSD].

The transfer of Pol Gen Sawaeng to an inactive post in the Prime Minister's Office—which apparently prompted his resignation later yesterday—paves the way for some important changes in the police hierarchy. Most significant of these is the promotion of Pol Lt-Gen Bunchu Wangkanon, commissioner of the Central Investigation Bureau [CIB], to assistant police chief.

From the very beginning, the choice of Pol Gen Sawaeng by Interior Minister Praman Adireksan over the two other equally qualified contenders at the time—Pol Gen Soem Charurat and Pol Gen Wasit Detkunchon—was open to criticism. Firstly, the selection was made in a hush-hush manner. Secondly, experience and qualifications were apparently overlooked in favour of nepotism and political connections.

Although the general public's perception of the police has never been particularly favourable, public trust in law enforcement under Gen Sawaeng's leadership has eroded considerably recently following the ugly incidents that have taken place at the CSD and which are suspected of being perpetuated by policemen themselves. Morale among honest and hard-working policemen is also said to be at a low ebb because of the alleged widespread practice of using money to buy positions.

The blatant abuse of the Police Department's radio station to attack CSD commander Pol Maj-Gen Seri Temiyawet and the concerted mud-slinging campaign against him—allegedly by "old guards" in the CSD—clearly demonstrate the breakdown in police discipline. This is a dangerous trend which cannot go unchecked.

These disgraceful acts, however, pale in comparison to the bomb attack ealrier this month at the CSD commander's office. Although it is generally believed that the bombers' real intent was to intimidate rather than kill Maj-Gen Seri, the bombing has shocked the public. A common question asked by many people is how can the police protect ordinary law-abiding citizens if they can't even prevent attacks on the CSD's top official.

Clearly the problems at the CSD are far from being resolved. On the contrary, hostility against Seri and resistance against reform continue unabated to the extent that there is little prospect of solving the CSD's problems amicably without changes at the top echelon.

It is an open secret that Pol Maj-Gen Seri and his immediate superior Pol Lt-Gen Bunchu, who still enjoys the loyalty of many CSD officers, don't have a good working relationship. Among other things, the two senior officers were recently involved in a bitter conflict over the appointment of the superintendent of the 2nd subdivision of the CSD.

Yesterday's decision to elevate Bunchu from the CIB was clearly intended to allow Seri to maneouvre with more flexiblity in order to improve his division's CSD's battered image. It is now Maj-Gen Seri's duty to exercise his authority and demonstrate his pragmatism, openmindedness and fairness in such a way that he can patch up the differences with his subordinates and effectively perform the task designated to him. For the interest of the public and the police as a whole, it is also high time that CSD officers who resist reforms change their attitude and become more cooperative.

Vietnam

Thirteenth Joint Search for MIAs Ends

BK0702152191 Hanoi VNA in English 1455 GMT 7 Feb 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Feb.7—Vietnamese and U.S. specialists today concluded their 13th joint search of information on 14 cases of Americans reportedly missing in the Vietnam war in Quang Binh, Thua Thien-Hue, Quang Nam-Da Nang provinces.

They collected a number of remains and relevant information.

The U.S. specialists highly appreciated the cooperation and assistance of the administrations and people in the localities where they had conducted the joint search.

The U.S. specialists left Vietnam today.

NHAN DAN Condemns Israeli 'State Terrorism'

BK0802090491 Hanoi VNA in English 0700 GMT 8 Feb 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA February 8—The Communist party newspaper NHAN DAN today voices full support for the desire of the Arab and world people for an end to Israel's policy of state terrorism.

Commenting on the bombardments by Israeli aircraft on February 5 and 6 in Southern Lebanon where many Palestinians are taking refuge, the paper says:

"Tel Aviv's military actions show that it is carrying out a seek-and-kill policy against the Palestinian people, grossly trampling upon the latter's earnest desire for independence and freedom." Noting that this is the second Israeli attack this year and the biggest Israeli air raid on the Southern Lebanon since 1982, the paper points out: "Those military actions were also acts of aggression against Lebanon, an independent and sovereign country, in defiance of the Arab opinion and the United Nations resolutions."

Le Quang Dao on Results of Visit to Indonesia

BK0802083191 Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 7 Feb 91

[Text] A delegation of the Vietnamese National Assembly led by its Chairman Le Quang Dao has just concluded a friendship visit to Indonesia.

Asked about the results of the visit, Le Quang Dao said:

[Begin Le Quang Dao recording in Vietnamese fading into English translation] At the invitation of Mr. Kharis Suhud, chairman of the Indonesian National Assembly, a Vietnamese National Assembly delegation visited Indonesia from January 25-31. The visit marked new developments in the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries in general and the two National Assemblies in particular. [end recording]

The Vietnamese guests were received by Indonesian President Suharto and held talks and exchanged views with the chairman of the Indonesian National Assembly, the Committee for Cooperation of the Indonesian Inter-Parliament and some ministers. The delegation visited Jakarta and Bandung and many economic and cultural establishments.

In recent years, the Indonesian people, with a spirit of independence and self-reliance, have recorded great achievements in national construction. Many experiences gained by the Indonesian people are very useful for Vietnam.

Chairman Le Quang Dao highly appreciated the results of the visit. He thanked the Indonesian leaders and people for their warm sentiments and hospitality.

Asked about the friendship relations between the National Assemblies and peoples of Vietnam and Indonesia, Chairman Le Quang Dao said:

[Begin recording] Vietnam and Indonesia are two neighboring countries in Southeast Asia. Throughout history, our two countries have always established good relations. They share many similarities in the struggles for national independence. Now as before, the Indonesian people always support the just cause of the Vietnamese people. Indonesia works to promote dialogue between the two groups of countries in Southeast Asia and cooperation with Vietnam. I held that with its position and practice, Indonesia would contribute to promoting dialogue and cooperation in the region. [end recording]

The cooperation betwen Vietnam and Indonesia is a factor very important for the cooperation among countries in the region so as to build a peaceful, stable, cooperative, and developed Southeast Asia.

The Vietnamese National Assembly and people are ready to, together with their Indonesian counterparts, exert every effort to strengthen cooperation and support Indonesia's important role in Southeast Asia and in the Nonaligned Movement and the world as a whole.

The recent visit to Vietnam by Indonesian President Suharto opened up a new page in the history of development of the relations between the two countries and new prospects for the sentiments of friendship and cooperation in many fields between Indonesia and Vietnam in the interests of the two peoples and peace, stability, and development in the region and the world at large.

Chairman Le Quang Dao said: The newly concluded visit to Indonesia by the Vietnamese National Assembly delegation contributes to further strengthening the friendship and cooperation between our two countries.

On the Cambodian issue, Chairman Le Quang Dao said: This issue has been put forth by many countries, including Vietnam and Indonesia, who wish to quickly settle the issue on the basis of respect for the Cambodian people's right to self-determination and in accordance with the UN Charter.

Among the important things Vietnam has done was the complete withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Cambodia in September 1989. Vietnam has also made collective contributions to seeking a political solution to the Cambodian issue. Vietnam wishes a peaceful, neutral, and independent Cambodia having friendly relations with all countries. Vietnam highly values the efforts made by Indonesia as the cochairman of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia and will continue to cooperate with Indonesia and other countries in seeking an early settlement of the Cambodian issue.

The international aspect of this issue has already been solved and the internal aspect will be settled by the Cambodian parties themselves.

The Vietnamese National Assembly delegation affirmed Vietnam's stance on the Cambodian issue with the Indonesian leaders.

Joint Venture Bank Set Up With Indonesia

BK0802091491 Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 7 Feb 91

[Text] Indovina Bank, a joint venture between the Vietnam Bank of Commerce and Bank Summa Indonesia begins operations in late January.

Initial legal capital of Indovina Bank is about 10 million U.S. dollars equally shared by both sides. The bank, the first of this kind in Vietnam, has office in Ho Chi Minh City and the term of 20 years [as heard].

VNA Reports Vice Chairman's Visit to Malaysia

BK0702155691 Hanoi VNA in English 1457 GMT 7 Feb 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Feb. 7—Vo Van Kiet, first vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers of Vietnam, began an official friendship visit to Malaysia Wednesday. He is accompanied by Cao Si Kiem, governer of the State Bank; Dang Quoc Sam, deputy chairman of the State Commission for Science and Technology; and Tran Huy Chuong, assistant to the foreign minister.

In the afternoon the same day, Vo Van Kiet called on Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed and exchanged views with him on measures to promote the friendship and cooperation between the two countries as well as other issues of common concern.

Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed warmly welcomed the guests and said that Malaysia follows a policy of friendship with all neighbouring countries and wishes that they would live in peace and prosperity. As for Vietnam, shortly after the war end, Malaysia had plans to help it in rubber development, but conditions were not available for realising such plans. Now Malaysia is prepared to broaden its technical cooperation with Vietnam in numerous areas.

The prime minister attached importance to the Malaysia-Vietnam cooperation in the present situation, and said he would assign the Malaysian Foreign Ministry to study to establish an appropriate mechanism to facilitate the development of the cooperation between the two countries.

The prime minister also pointed to some areas and issues in which the two countries should cooperate so as to promote their existing friendship.

Vice Chairman Vo Van Kiet expressed the Vietnamese Government's desire to strengthen and broaden its multifaceted cooperation with Malaysia. At the same time, he voiced Vietnam's readiness to cooperate in resolving all remaining problems in the spirit of mutual understanding and good neighbourliness.

The meeting proceeded in an atmosphere of friendship and frankness.

Leaders Receive Departing Cambodian Ambassador

BK0802091791 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 7 Feb 91

[Text] On 5 February, Comrade Pham Van Dong, adviser to the party Central Committee, and Senior General Vo Nguyen Giap, member of the party Central Committee and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, received Tep Hen, Cambodian ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Vietnam, who paid a farewell visit before going home for a new assignment.

Comrades Pham Van Dong and Vo Nguyen Giap had a cordial talk with Ambassador Tep Hen.

Vo Nguyen Giap Speech at Calcutta Seminar

BK0502135991 Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 21 Jan 91 pp 3, 4

["Text" of speech by General Vo Nguyen Giap, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, at the 1991 International Seminar entitled "Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam, and World Peace" in Calcutta on 14 January]

[Text] With great emotion and on behalf of the government, people, and scientists of Vietnam, I would like to express here at this solemn forum our profound gratitude to the government and people of India, the government and people of West Bengal, and the mayor and people of Calcutta for the animated and continuous activities that were conducted throughout the past year or so under the guidance of a national committee headed by the prime minister of the Republic of India to solemnly commemorate the birth centenary of President Ho Chi Minh, a national liberation hero of Vietnam and an outstanding man of culture.

I would like to convey my warm greetings to all learned people and scholars of India and other countries who have for many years devoted their minds and hearts to researching and studying about Ho Chi Minh. Your scientific labor projects have contributed to asserting and propagating broadly the Ho Chi Minh's ideology and have enhanced and promoted cultural traffic among nations for the sake of humanitarism, peace, and social progress in our time.

I also would like to express here my most sincere thanks to the leaders and people of Calcutta for their solemn welcome and warm hospitality given to myself and the Vietnamese scientists.

Dear delegates, dear ladies and gentlemen: It is very meaningful that Calcutta has been selected by the Indian government and people as a place for organizing this solemn international seminar. In his lifetime, President Ho Chi Minh came twice to this historical and heroic city of yours. Calcultta is the birthplace of great poet Rovindranat Tago, a famous philosopher and social activist of India. Before India gained its independence, Calcutta also took the lead in supporting, since 1946, the Vietnamese people's resistance struggle for national independence and reunification. This international scientific seminar together with the erection of President Ho Chi Minh's statue constitutes an event that has enriched the beautiful historical annals of Vietnamese-Indian friendship.

This seminar on President Ho Chi Minh as well as many others which have been organized as advised by UNESCO in the member countries, took place in an extremely seething and complex international setting where many great changes have occurred, much new knowledge has appeared, and many old values have been reexamined. With respect to President Ho Chi Minh, however, scientists of many countries and of different tendencies in many seminars have in common one observation: The world has changed and will change again, but Ho Chi Minh's ideology will live forever in the cultural treasury of mankind.

What has made Ho Chi Minh's ideology live forever with mankind? It would be impossible to answer the question clearly if Ho Chi Minh's ideology was not placed in its relationship with our times. President Ho Chi Minh was born and grew up at a time when capitalism had completely occupied its colonies. Hundreds of independent and sovereign nations had lost their countries and had been enslaved. Inheriting from the traditions of indomitable struggle and dreaming of liberating the nation, Ho Chi Minh resolved to depart and seek ways to save the country. After 10 years or so of surveying imperialist countries and the network of their colonies, he arrived at this conclusion: Wherever it goes, capitalism and imperialism has caused suffering and poverty to the workers who have been exploited, abused, and denied the right to live. Out of his patriotism and sympathy with millions of suffering people in the same dire situation, in 1920 Nguyen Ai Quoc approached Leninism: The revolutionary path of the proletariat was the way to national salvation where patriotism is closely connected with genuine internationalism; national independence with socialism, and national liberation with the liberation of society and mankind. This is the core of Ho Chi Minh's ideology.

Ho Chi Minh's ideology was ever more perfected in subsequent decades of research and struggle.

Ho Chi Minh's ideology lies mainly in the creative and successful application of Marxist-Leninist principles to the special realities in Vietnam's society, an oriental society that used to be a semi-feudal colony. This ideology has blazed the national liberation path for all colonies and semi-colonies, and set forth the guidelines for the society of these countries to advance to socialism from the national liberation revolution and the people's national democratic revolution.

While some revolutionaries in that period believed that only when the revolution in suzerain states triumphed, could colonies be liberated completely. Yet, Nguyen Ai Quoc believed that national liberation movements in colonies could rely mainly on strength to win victories, and even earlier victories to help a great deal the revolution in suzerain states.

Besides the three origins of French utopian socialism, German philosophy, and British political economy and from these Marxist dialectics, Ho Chi Minh further enriched Marxism with new factors: Patriotism in the Vietnamese nation, the oppressed nations' aspiration for liberation, community and scientific traditions, Oriental philosophy, and even dialectics are also creatively applied on the basis of inheriting from and developing dialectical factors in thinking of the Vietnamese nation and ancient civilizations of Asia.

If the purpose of Marxism is not only to seek and understand but also to transform the world, then Ho Chi Minh is a vivid example. In Ho Chi Minh, theory and reality are one, words and deeds are one. Just as some scholars have said: One cannot evaluate Ho Chi Minh's ideology and career only through his writings and words. One must also review his practical activities, his ethics and behavior, and his entire life of labor, study, and struggle—his great, brilliant, and simple life.

Ho Chi Minh's ideology is a new developmental step for Marxism-Leninism in the practical cause of liberating the nation and building a new society in Vietnam. It can contribute to development in Oriental countries and even in a larger area.

To the Vietnamese people, Ho Chi Minh's ideology not only led the national liberation struggle to total victory through the 30-year-long struggle but now under our party leadership, it also continues to develop creatively to find a path of renovation and transition to socialism and to build a peaceful, civilized, and happy life for all the Vietnamese people.

Dear friends,

First of all, I would like to talk about national independence in President Ho Chi Minh's ideology.

Over the history of his evolution, man has generated countless noble values of civilizations. Yet, he has also caused untold shame. Colonialism was one of the biggest shames of mankind. It brought shackles, oppression, poverty, ignorance, and disease to weigh heavily on the fate of small and weak nations. Regaining freedom and independence was the burning aspiration of oppressed nations in the 20th century and Ho Chi Minh was one of the symbols of this will and aspiration. President Ho Chi Minh's famous slogan was that nothing is more precious than independence and freedom! He was considered at the vanguard in awakening his nation and other oppressed nations to rise up and struggle for independence, freedom, and human dignity.

In leading the national liberation struggle as well as the Vietnamese revolution, President Ho Chi Minh always considered the force of the people and nation a decisive force in winning a victory for the revolution. His strategy was to unite the entire people and nation in an upheaval to struggle for the country's independence and freedom.

He said: Unity is force. "Solidarity, solidarity, great solidarity; success, success, great success".

As Vietnam's national community is composed of 50 nationalities, the enemy is constantly seeking ways to "divide and rule." President Ho Chi Minh called on people of all nationalities to unite and consider one another as brothers in the same family.

Although there were many classes with different interests in Vietnamese society, they were all suffering from the colonialist yoke of slavery. President Ho Chi Minh called on all classes and strata of people: Let workers, peasants, intellectual laborers, notables, patriotic compatriots...unite and satisfactorily settle the relations between classes and the nation.

As there are different religions and faiths in Vietnam, the enemy is always resorting to instigation and division. President Ho Chi Minh advocated the policy of uniting religions and the religious and lay people together in order to fight aggressors and build the country.

President Ho Chi Minh paid the most attention to solidarity between the Vietnamese nation and other fraternal national and progressive forces in the world, including the French and American peoples. He correctly settled the relations between the national and international issues, and between the Vietnamese nation and other nations.

The national solidarity front united all the people into a bloc considered an extremely large force not only in the national liberation revolution but also in the socialist revolution.

It was mainly on the strength of this firm and broad all-people solidarity that all old and young Vietnamese people of both sexes from the lowlands to highlands, millions of people as one, rose up and fought, creating the invincible strength of the Vietnamese people's war to defeat all aggressors.

It was mainly on the basis of this international solidarity that the Vietnamese people's strength had been multiplied several-fold, creating the great integrated strength to bring the two resistance struggles to total victory.

Ho Chi Minh's ideology and Vietnam's example have become a source of strong encouragement to the liberation struggle movements of all nations. Many independent countries have admitted to being directly or indirectly influenced by the Vietnamese revolution and Ho Chi Minh's ideology.

Today, the vitality of the idea that "nothing is more precious than independence and freedom" still remains intact. After gaining their political independence, underdeveloped countries must now struggle against neocolonialist forces that are capitalizing on their financial and technical strengths and high technology to rob and confine these countries within backwardness and dependence which, otherwise speaking, is to carry out in fact "recolonization".

In the present era of restoring national spirit from the Orient to the Occident, people are still deeply moved by one of Ho Chi Minh's verses:

Life is rife with thousands of sorrows but nothing is sadder than losing freedom.

To sum up, freedom to all people, all nations, and all countries in choosing their own path of development, will be forever an aspiration of mankind. This is also a major aspect of Ho Chi Minh's ideology.

Dear friends,

To President Ho Chi Minh, national independence is always linked closely to freedom and happiness of the people. He said: "If the country is independent but the people are neither free nor happy, what good is independence?" He also said: "I have only one desire, the most earnest desire, that is how to make our country independent and our people free, and that all our compatriots can have adequate food, clothes, and education." We should recall here a statement by Mahatma Gandhi: "I will work for an India (...) in which there are no more high or low class citizens, an India in which all communities will live in peace and harmony."

No sooner had the Democratic Republic of Vietnam come into being than President Ho Chi Minh set forth three paramount and pressing tasks: "To eradicate famine, ignorance, and aggression." He put forth the slogan of "building the country while resisting." He devoted much effort to attentively building a new regime and a new life, calling on the people to "increase production, practice thrift," develop the economy and culture, organize general elections, form a new constitution and found the Democratic Republic of Vietnam a state of the people, by the people, and for the people.

President Ho Chi Minh found the value of independence, freedom, and happiness in the objectives and ideal of scientific socialism of Marxism-Leninism. To President Ho Chi Minh, socialism is not a rigid dogmatic model unfamiliar with material and spiritual interests of human beings. He pointed out a very specific and practical objective of the period of transition to socialism which is to give everyone a life of plenty and happiness, then, on this basis, to save the laboring people from poverty and give everyone a job and a life of plenty and happiness. This objective reveals the consistency of Ho Chi Minh's ideology in the people's national democratic revolution as well as in the socialist revolution. It has always emphasized the country's interests. It can be called socialism to "make the people rich and the country powerful," a socialism relevant to the characteristics of one's nation and the common trends of mankind.

In the course of leading the Vietnamese revolution and seeking a creative way to advance the country, President Ho Chi Minh pointed out the fundamental contents of a new society. Economically, we must gradually build the material and technical bases of socialism, give everyone a job, adopt a democratic management system, distribute according to labor, constantly increase labor productivity, improve the material and spiritual lives of the people, and advance toward eliminating the system of human exploitation. Politically, we must build a regime controlled by the laboring people, use the alliance of workers, peasants, and intellectuals as a base on which to build the state of the people, by the people, and for the people; the state in which all powers belong to the people and the government and cadres are servants. Culturally and socially, we must achieve justice, democracy, and friendship and brotherhood among the people in a society of good morals and customs where all traditional values are upheld in combination with selected acceptance of the cultural quintessence of mankind. We must develop science and technology, raise the people's level of intelligence, train and employ talented people, and create conditions for new men to shape up gradually and develop their creativity.

According to President Ho Chi Minh, socialism in Vietnam does not take place along the natural line of historical development from capitalism to socialism as Marx said but it is a transition from a backward agricultural country of underdeveloped production to socialism. The growth process is still difficult, dangerous, and long. A high standard of living cannot be achieved overnight. However, it is always possible to

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struggle and build a democratic and just society with a healthy lifestyle and a fine man-to-man relationship.

To sum up, President Ho Chi Minh's concept of socialism is the creative application of Marxism-Leninism in combination with the traditions of community culture of the Vietnamese nation, with the aspiration for justice, and with charity for oriental philosophical thought. As a result, while rejecting the capitalist path of suffering, nations can study and find a direction suitable to their selection in Ho Chi Minh's socialist thinking.

Dear friends,

President Ho Chi Minh held that the final purpose of liberating nations and societies is to liberate people from all kinds of oppression, exploitation, and injustice. This ideal stems from immense humanitarianism and boundless love of and trust in the people and mankind.

Ho Chi Minh's humanitarianism is primarily directed to those compatriots suffering from abuse. His love is boundless in terms of races and nationalities. His humanitarianism, however, is not pity. His love is closely linked with boundless confidence in human energy, creativity, and conscience which constantly stirs up latent potentials in human beings and awakens them so that they can self-consciously rise up and struggle to liberate themselves and regain independence and freedom for the nations and dignity for all people.

Ho Chi Minh's humanitarianism overflowed with optimism toward human beings and with confidence in the good nature and ability of all people to surge forward even though they once made a mistake. He said: We must be lenient and generous toward those who went astray due to circumstances. The duty of revolutionaries is to know how to make what is good in all people bloom like spring flowers and what is bad in them disappear.

In socialist construction, President Ho Chi Minh paid special attention to "building new men" as this is the motivating force that decides the advance of Vietnamese society in the future. He demands that we must have a strategy to "build men" because new men are both the cause and result of the struggle to build a new society. According to him, new Vietnamese socialist men must have a sense of mastery over society and "being masters, they must know how to discharge their duty by themselves and should neither rely on others nor bide their time." New men must have cultural and scientific knowledge, some standard of professionalism and revolutionary ethics, and qualities of "diligence, frugality, fairness, and impartiality." They must sternly oppose individualism, which does not mean a negation of individuals' legitimate interests. He further said: "Everyone has his own privacy, his own specialty, and a private life of his own and his family. If these individual interests do not conflict with collective ones, they are not bad." According to him, new Vietnamese people must be deeply imbued with national traditions and simultaneously with socialist internationalism.

Ho Chi Minh symbolizes the noble values of human relations: respect for old people, love of children, and courtesy toward women. He showed concern and sacrifice for everybody without exception and total lack of self-interest. Until his death, he led a modest, simple, humble, and courteous life. All that he left behind in his small two-room house are one bed, one desk, one chair, one book shelf, one wardrobe with two worn out Khaki uniforms, one pair of old rubber sandals, one radio, and one old watch. That was all he had on this earth, Ho Chi Minh, the founder of the Communist Party of Vietnam and the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and the teacher and father of the Vietnamese revolution.

Ho Chi Minh's humanitarianism is a crystallization of Vietnam's traditional values and, at the same time, a product of human quintessence. It can be called humanitarianism of the new era.

Dear delegates,

"The world is going through a crisis—a psychological crisis. What is needed now is a peaceful and friendly approach. Doctor Ho manifests that approach." This remark by Indian Prime Minister Nehru on President Ho Chi Minh still retains its epochal significance.

President Ho Chi Minh was a man of great love and friendship. More than anyone else, he cherished peace, a peace closely linked to independence and unity. Strategically firm, he proved to be very flexible in policy matters through his countless concessions that were at times extreme with a view to protecting peace for the nation. However, the more he conceded the nearer the enemy approached until he had no other way out than staging an all-Vietnamese people's war—the longest and fiercest war in Vietnam's history—in order to regain independence and unification for the country. This was a war for genuine peace of the Vietnamese nation. This was also a typical model of the dialectical relations between war and peace.

We have only recently acquired the peace that President Ho Chi Minh dreamt of all his lifetime. We are striving to accomplish his last desire, "to build a peaceful, unified, independent, democratic and prosperous Vietnam" under the new conditions which, though favorable, are still rife with difficulties. The difficulties are caused by a backward economy, the consequences of a few decades of war, the economic embargo by imperialist forces, the influence of changes in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, and an extremely complex world situation.

As we are holding this seminar in India—the land of peace and friendship—we also witness that the world situation continues to become profoundly confused with the appearance of multipolarity and the trend towards detente between the superpowers, and the shift of struggle from political-military to mainly political-economic forms. Meanwhile, the Soviet Union and Eastern European countries are going through a crisis, serious in several respects, which has caused an imbalance of forces. As a result, although peace and cooperation seem to have developed, the struggle between forces is no less fierce and it is obvious that the danger of war has not been eliminated.

In such a situation, along with the extremely rapid progress of the technological revolution, there is the ever widening gap between developed and developing countries. Using subtle maneuvers, developed countries are capitalizing on their financial, commercial, and technological strengths and their extremely powerful mass media to exercise political control and economic, cultural, and ideological penetration, causing ever greater inequality in the North-South relationship. They have placed horrible debts on developing countries and prevented the building of a new just world economic order that India has long proposed.

As part and parcel of the world community, Vietnam strives to contribute to peace and stability in the region and the world. It is striving to expand its international traffic, normalize and improve its various relations, participate in labor division and cooperation with countries of different political and social regimes, and secure economic assistance and experiences in management, techniques, and modern technology. Meanwhile, the Vietnamese people will uphold self-reliance and creative independence to overcome difficulties, obstacles, and acute problems of the era.

To solve these problems, we will continue to struggle for the revolutionary objectives of our people which are national independence and socialism selected by President Ho Chi Minh. The Vietnamese people are accelerating the process of comprehensive renovation of their entire country. We have been ever deeply touched by Uncle Ho's words: "This is a momentous struggle against what is old and rotten in order to create new and fresh things" and success is impossible if "we do not rely on the people's forces". Our renovation process has scored some important initial successes. Our party is expanding democracy and mobilizing all the people to contribute their views to the platform and the strategy of socioeconomic development which will be presented at the coming seventh party congress.

We think that, faced with today's world situation, the people of Vietnam as well as other countries, while expanding international cooperation and acquiring scientific and cultural achievements of intellectual civilization, must assert all the more firmly their fundamental national rights and preserve all the more tightly the fine nature and bearing of their nation. The march forward to genuine independence, freedom, and happiness is a condition for rallying nations in the world.

In such a spirit and on the occasion of President Ho Chi Minh's birth centenary, we expect that all peace- and justice-loving people who are struggling for genuine independence, democracy, freedom, justice, and social progress, will expand commerce and solidarity, intensify mutual understanding and assistance, and pool their efforts to struggle for a new equal world order in the political, economic, cultural, social, technological and information domains, for the sake of peace, happiness and bright future of mankind.

Dear delegates,

Ho Chi Minh was a national hero of the Vietnamese people, a loyal friend of all nations and progressive forces in the world, an ideologue and a philosophical activist who always combined theory with practice. Ho Chi Minh's ideology is a system for guiding the regeneration process: independence and unification for the country, freedom and democracy for the people, justice and happiness for all people, peace and friendship for all nations, and the development of cultural and humanistic relations for the era.

This international seminar in Calcutta is a new step of progress in studying the major contents of Ho Chi Minh's ideology. Indian scholars will certainly make important contributions to this work.

President Ho Chi Minh had highly evaluated India. He said: "The Republic of India is an independent, heroic, and powerful country. It has made many precious contributions to peace in Asia and is playing an important role in the international arena. The Republic of India has made considerable contributions to restoring peace in Vietnam. Indian traditions and philosophy are based on peaceful and charitable thinking. For many centuries, Buddhist, artistic, and scientific thoughts of India have spread all over the world." (Ho Chi Minh: Whole Work, pages 8, 38-47)

Recalling this, we would like to add: The philosophical thought of your country is among the oriental origins of Ho Chi Minh's ideology.

Vietnam and India have similar historical and cultural points. We have common objectives and interests, enjoy traditional solidarity, and assist each other in the past and present as well for the sake of peace, security and cooperation in Southeast Asia, Asia-Pacific and the world over. Following Ho Chi Minh's ideology, the Vietnamese people will forever treasure, preserve, and develop the close friendship between the two peoples which was strenuously cultivated by late President Ho Chi Minh and late Prime Minister P.J. Nehru, the outstanding sons and great men of culture of the two nations.

May the Vietnamese-Indian friendship and cooperation be everlasting and remain fresh and green forever !

May our seminar be a fine success !

Once again, I sincerely thank you, gentlemen.

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BBC Interviews NHAN DAN's Bui Tinh

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[Editorial Report] In December 1990 and January 1991 London BBC in Vietnamese to Vietnam carried in its weekend broadcasts several installments of a recorded interview with Colonel Bui Tin, deputy editor in chief of NHAN DAN, by BBC broadcaster Do Van. In all, 10 installments totaling 127 minutes of questions and answers were received in Bangkok with very poor to fair reception. The first portion, received at 1430 GMT on 22 December, was identified as "a continuation" of the interview, thus suggesting that BBC had begun to air the series at an earlier date. The installments received in Bangkok did not mention the date of the interview, but its contents hinted that it was conducted in Paris. The last part of the interview was carried at 1430 GMT on 26 January.

BBC begins each installment of the Bui Tin interview with this introduction: "Dear listeners: Recently, you have begun to hear a series of our interview with Mr. Bui Tin, deputy editor in chief of NHAN DAN, the central organ of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV]. Mr. Bui Tin went to France on an official mission and is currently in Paris. From there he sent Vietnam's leadership a petition suggesting reforms that need to be carried out to extricate the country from its current state of poverty and lack of democracy. You are invited to listen to a continuation of the interview with the following questions asked by Do Van."

BBC in Vietnamese to Vietnam at 1430 GMT on 22 December features a 18.5-minute portion of the interview—the first received by Bangkok bureau—which contains Bui Tin's answers to three questions by Do Van. In response to a question about his assessment of the upheavals in the socialist bloc in 1989, Bui Tin maintains that the misfortune that befell the East European countries was not due to any flaw inherent in the nature of socialism but to the failure of these regimes to fully implement that ideology. He says: "In my opinion, the main cause was the fact that the socialism implemented there was a deformed one, a misshaped socialism, as people call it." This, Bui Tin explains, coupled with "the scourges of bureaucratism, irresponsibility, and corruption" was the undoing of East Europe.

Asked for his ideas on how to "reshape" Vietnam," Bui Tin envisions the construction of a "modest, simple new Vietnam house according to the traditional sense of aesthetics." Such a structure, he stresses, should be built on four main pillars—the spirit of independence and sovereignty; love of the country and people; concord, reconciliation, and harmony; and ability to follow developments and progress in the world—and should keep its doors widely opened to "all four directions."

Replying to Do Van's question about the future role of the CPV in a "new" Vietnam, Bui Tin points out: "The leading position of the CPV has stood the test of history. The party enjoyed tremendous prestige during the war. To this day, I think, no one has asked to set up an organization to vie for leadership with the CPV." Acknowledging that the party's prestige has been greatly reduced since 1975 due to "repeated mistakes," he says: "If the party clearly realizes its historical responsibility and can find a way or a system of measures to extricate the country from the crisis, its prestige will certainly be restored and its leadership consolidated. But if it fails to do so, if living conditions continue to deteriorate, if the party fails to take full advantage of what the world's intellect has to offer—as our people can do and deserve to do—if it lets this opportunity slip by, causing more difficulties for the country and plunging society into crisis and even a further decline of morality, then, in my opinion, the party will have to face a highly regrettable deadlock and will not be able to assert its position of leadership."

Another 7-minute "continuation" of the Bui Tin interview is presented by BBC in Vietnamese to Vietnam at 1130 GMT on 23 December. The installment is devoted entirely to Bui Tin's answer to a single question of whether he had any worries about the possible "consequences" of the submission of his critical "Citizen's Petition" to the Vietnamese party leadership. However, except for a few details, most of Bui Tin's reply is unintelligible due to very poor reception. He says: "I assume responsibility for what I think and what I say." Acknowledging that his statements might be interpreted differently by the western press "in its own style," he asserts: "These are entirely my personal views. I do not belong to any organization, I do not participate in any political group overseas. I still consider myself a genuine party member."

BBC in Vietnamese to Vietnam at 1430 GMT on 9 December carried an 18.5-minute installment of the Bui Tin interview, presenting the NHAN DAN deputy editor in chief's answers to two questions by Do Van. First, asked if there are any thoughts he wishes to convey to his friends in Vietnam from his current vantage point abroad, Bui Tin confides: "Today, I would like only to convey a few heartfelt words to my friends in the propaganda and training, security, and organization branches with which I have fairly extensive relations." After pointing out the importance of these services, he makes some remarks on the performance of each of them. Regarding the propaganda and training branch, he notes: "Because of its too little knowledge of realities outside the country, the propaganda and training branch still has a very limited and narrow vision. Most of its personnel only have a smattering of general knowledge which, honestly speaking, is bookish and prejudicial." For this reason, he adds, the service "still has numerous shortcomings" in fulfilling its role as a think-tank of the leadership.

Turning to organizational work, Bui Tin remarks: "About the organization branch, I am worried even more, because, as all society already knows, it has committed too many mistakes, which have been openly discussed but are being rectified only too slowly. The

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organization branch still has a very narrow vision. Its personnel selection, promotion, and assessment work is still being carried out according to feeling and remains heavily prejudicial and partial. It shows a lack of concern for people and puts the wrong people in the wrong job, thereby making the managerial apparatus sluggish and incapable of assigning virtuous and talented men to suitable positions."

Commenting on the security branch's performance, Bui Tin says: "This branch has developed into a service with too many personnel. Therefore, control has become lax. As a consequence, security officers have suffered so much deprivation in daily life that they have resorted to manipulations to make a living. At times, they have even relied on their powers to carry out such manipulations and, worse still, to enrich themselves. The public has complained about this problem, but it is still being rectified too slowly. But, what is worth mentioning is that cadres in charge of the security branch have yet to show firmness based on a combination of principle and flexibility. Their judgment of people is still being done in an arbitrary, casual, heavy-handed, and subjective manner."

Answering the second question about his "views" on the overseas Vietnamese community, Bui Tin says he considers this a "very big strategic issue." He adds: "Yet, at home, there still exist too many prejudices against the overseas Vietnamese. The administration and the party share the same views: They hold that Vietnamese living abroad are not entirely trustworthy, and they are concerned that these Vietnamese have been infected with Western democracy." Noting the "patriotism" of Vietnamese residents in several western countries and their "attachment to their birthplace," Bui Tin says: "Having had hundreds of direct contacts with overseas Vietnamese, I think that a correct, accurate, unprejudicial, open-minded, sincere, and intelligent outlook is all it takes to win over a fairly large force of talented overseas Vietnamese to effectively contribute to national reconstruction."

The broadcast of the Bui Tin interview is continued by BBC in Vietnamese to Vietnam at 1430 GMT on 5 January with the airing of a 19-minute extract featuring two questions asked by Do Van. First, asked to tell what he thinks about the question of "plurality, pluralism, and multipartyism," Bui Tin reveals that in July 1990 the Ideological and Cultural Department of the CPV Central Committee demanded that the press and public meetings desist from discussing this question. Bui Tin calls this injunction a "very harmful one" He affirms: "The policy of renovation pursued over the past four years, that is, since 1986, clearly implies the recognition of the concept of plurality. It can also be said that this is a strength of the renovation process." He goes on to cite some examples to prove that, in fact, plurality has been tolerated in economics, religion, culture, arts and letters in Vietnam for quite some time. Distinguishing between "plurality and pluralism," Bui Tin defines the latter as a "broad generalization of pluralist policies and positions in the philosophical, political, economic, literary and artistic domains." He asserts: "We can affirm that, in Vietnam, in implementing the line of renovation, we have practiced, recognized, and applied pluralism in a fairly broad manner in all aspects of social life."

Touching on "multipartyism," Bui Tin advocates "a calm, scientific, and convincing discussion" of this issue. He points to the fact that "in the Democratic Republic of Vietnam then, as well as in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam now, there has always been only one party." But he maintains that despite the "many mistakes" the CPV has committed over the past 15 years as a result of "subjectivism, voluntarism, dogmatism, conservatism, and bureaucratism," the people "still want the party to revamp itself," and that "to date, no group, no political organization has officially asked to set up another political party." However, he admits: "Real democracy is possible only if there is a multyparty system."

Replying to the second question, which asks for his view on the issue of "national unity on a new basis," Bui Tin says: "In my opinion, the bloc of national unity should be built on a new basis, namely a systematic program of action in the political, economic, social, cultural, artistic, internal, and external fields to take the country out of the prolonged crisis at an early date, as envisaged in my petition and my proposal for the steps to be taken in the organization of its implementation that I have presented on an earlier occasion." He stresses that "a very necessary thing is that the communist party should change its view of the people, of those outside the party in order to achieve national unity." He mentions the names of some "well-known cadres" who are not party members such as Phan Anh, Hoang Minh Giam, Nguyen Xien, Tran Dang Khoa, and Phan Dinh Dieu, who he says "apparently only stay on the sidelines of the policy-making process," a fact he regards as "highly regrettable." Turning to overseas Vietnamese, Bui Tin observes: "A number of them still maintain a rightist and extremist attitude not conducive to reconciliation and concord. Some people still nurture highly unrealistic—and, I can say, even very dangerous—intentions; that is, they want to use violence to solve problems in the country. This is something they will never be able to achieve and will only result in futile sacrifice. Still harboring undying rancor, they find it very difficult to accept a dialogue with sincerity and in good faith. As I see it, this is no small obstacle." Bui Tin then urges these overseas Vietnamese to "rise above above suspicions and prejudices caused by history and past events" because, he says, "national unity for the sake of a great cause must be created with the goodwill of all sides, not only one side. Let us look ahead together, look straight toward the future together. Only in this way can lasting national reconciliation and concord be achieved for the benefit of the people and country."

BBC in Vietnamese to Vietnam at 1130 GMT on 6 January presents another portion of the recorded Bui Tin interview. Lasting 7 minutes, this installment contains Bui Tin's answer to Do Van's question about "the state of stability the Vietnamese leadership often talks

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about." Bui Tin says that at present, Vietnam needs stability and must avoid "falling into the state of chaos, anarchy, and disorder like the case of some East European countries." However, he explains: "Stability does not means the preservation of status quo, the maintenance of prolonged inactivity, stagnation, and sluggishness, because this is even more dangerous. Stability must be regarded as having a dialectical character, that is, stability in the context of renovation, of development, of a resolute and consistent democratization process, and, especially, stability in the context of the search for a system of effective measures to take the country out of the crisis." He recalls the excesses committed by the CPV over the past decades in the name of stability, describing various "leftist deviationistic" land reform policies during the 1930's and 1950's as the party's "big mistakes." He observes: "In my opinion, that kind of perception and thinking still persists today, with the dangers of subversion from without and opposition from within being somewhat exaggerated. For this reason, there still have been unnecessary arrests, deportations, and confinements of some people, even religious leaders. This has created a tense situation and an unfavorable and unattractive image of Vietnam abroad and among world opinion." Elaborating on public reaction to this demarche, Bui Tin reveals: "In the face of this acutely difficult situation, a few people have expressed anger and indignation. They demand that the organ of leadership be taken to task for leading the country into wretchedness and misery, and that the leadership be held accountable for the departure of millions of people, tens of thousands of whom met with horrible deaths on the sea. They also demand that the leadership assume responsibility for prolonged injustices in society, and for widespread depravity, corruption, and smuggling. On this basis, they demand that the current leaders quit, and even be brought to trial so that power be passed over to really virtuous and talented people. I hold that history will pass a fair judgment. But, at this juncture, a stable situation should be maintained to prevent the country from falling into a chaotic and anarchic state, which will be harmful to everyone."

BBC in Vietnamese to Vietnam at 1430 GMT on 12 January continues to carry the recorded Bui Tin interview by Do Van by presenting another 19-minute installment. This portion comprises Bui Tin's answers to two questions, the first broaching the question of Vietnam's current leadership, the second probing into the reasons for the banning of Senior Lieutenant General Tran Van Tra's war memoirs in 1982.

Asked to comment on the "arrangement of the Vietnamese leadership" and on "how the personnel question should be resolved," Bui Tin dismisses as "incorrect" the contention that the Vietnamese leaders are "all fogyish, all conservative." As he sees it, despite the fact that the renovation process almost "came to a screeching halt" in 1989 as a result of an "insufficient study" and the "lack of a really accurate appraisal" of the events in Eastern Europe, "it still is possible to continue pushing forward renovation more strongly." Foscusing on the "personnel question," Bui Tin says: "In this crisis, the country needs to find by all means sufficiently talented and virtuous leaders who are equal to their heavy responsibilities." After decrying the old ways of electing leaders and selecting delegates to party congresses as a "vicious circle" that prevents the appointment of capable people to the leadership organ, Bui Tin deals specifically with the current "preparation of personnel" for the Seventh Party Congress. He labels this process as "highly worrisome" because of the "careful advance direction that anyone who does not have a firm position, who still nurtures ideas about pluralism, who does not defend Marxism and Leninism really steadfastly, and who does not maintain a firm stance on class struggle and proletarianism should not be elected to attend party congresses from the lower to the upper level."

Turning finally to the question of top leadership, Bui Tin says: "With regard to highest-level personnel arrangement, in my opinion, there has been no effectual preparation for it. This is because as of today, we all know that the average age of the members of the party Central Committee Political Bureau is already 72, and that of the party Central Committee is already up to 63, as against 59 previously. For this reason, there is a need for relatively younger leaders. However, such people have not been prepared to take over. Even now, the question of who are going to be the next party general secretary, the next chairmen of the Council of State and Council of Ministers cannot be answered because of the lack of preparation and because eligible people have not been selected and trained for these positions. I consider this to be a highly regrettable vacuum. Of course, in my opinion, the top leadership apparati should not be changed in toto; they should not be changed en masse. A certain degree of inheritance [kees thuwaf] must still be maintained. Who should be kept then? I think we should keep a number of cadres who, although they have been in their positions a long time and even are of old age now, show new ways of thinking, enjoy prestige among the people, and have a firm position coupled with flexible thoughts and ways. If I were asked—in fact, I did talk privately with some cadres who showed concern for this so-called personnel question—I would think that one of such people is General Vo Nguyen Giap. He is a man who enjoys prestige both at home and abroad, has the virtue of integrity, and also commands a relatively vast knowledge. Despite his advanced age, he is still capable of adapting himself [thichs uwngs] to the situation, both domestic and international. For the general had lived for a long time with President Ho Chi Minh, who had at times adopted very supple and flexible policies and tactics when necessary. Therefore, General Vo Nguyen Giap can firmly grasp this [word indistinct], can apply that spirit, and consequently, he may be the man to unite the nation. I hope that, with his new thinking, the general may steer the ship of state safely through the storm.

"For his part, General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh, whom I like a lot, has a fairly clear renovation policy.

However, this policy has recently been regarded by public opinion as having stalled. This, in my opinion, is due to a large extent to the fact that his assistants and advisers are not equal to their tasks. For this reason, I think that General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh may continue to keep his renovation ideas and his flexible ways and can hold the position of adviser to preserve the continuity of the leadearship.

"In my opinion, National Assembly Chairman Le Quang Dao, who is currently a member of the party Central Committee, also has good knowledge and flexible thinking, and is open to suggestions. Therefore, he may still be able to adapt himself to the situation.

"Lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho, for whom I have great respect, still shows enthusiasm and a fairly vast knowledge of legal matters and the world despite his old age. For this reason, I think he can also stay in some position of leadership. Besides, there is also Vo Van Kiet, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, who once led Ho Chi Minh City in a fairly dynamic and novel fashion—but who has not been able to develop his strengths really vigorously since he was moved up to the central organ in Hanoi. In my opinion, he is also a man capable of coping suitably with the world situation. So is Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach. And if I were allowed to voice some more of my opinions, I would like to say that, as I see it, former Foreign Trade Minister Doan Duy Thanh, now retired, can return to his position because he is also dynamic and has new thinking in external economic relations."

Bui Tin goes on calling for a "suitable replacement" for the minister of commerce whose recent appointment to that position is described by him as "the strangest assignment of position that befuddled the appointee himself and caused a big stir in the entire commerce, foreign trade, and supply sectors." He also mentions Dr. Phan Dinh Dieu, Dr. Ho Ngoc Dai, Dr. Vo Tong Xuan as some of "very good" intellectuals that should be appointed to "appropriate positions." To the list of people he considers eligible for leadership, Bui Tin adds the name of retired Senior Lieutenant General Tran Van Tra, whom he portrays as a "man of knowledge who is willing to learn and to think, and who also stands for renovation." Calling Tran Van Tra's "recent" retirement "regrettable," Bui Tin cites the general's publication in 1982 of his memoirs "Concluding the 30-Year War" as the "reason" for his having to leave government service. According to Bui Tin, the book was banned from circulation both in and outside the army by a directive issued by the director of the General Political Department, a move he terms "inappropriate."

Requested in the second question to specify the "points" of General Tra's book that prompted the regime to prohibit its distribution, Bui Tin cites two facts: First, the date of the book's publication, which coincided with the opening of the Fifth National Party Congress (27 March 1982), and which was interpreted by the authorities as a deliberate move to "convey a statement" to the congress and to "contradict" the official line: second: Tra's "failure to fully appraise the position and effects of northern main forces army corps" and his "overemphasizing" the importance of local popular uprisings and of the role of southern troops in the 1975 Spring General Offensive.

BBC in Vietnamese in Vietnam at 1130 GMT on 13 January carries another eight-minute "continuation" of the recorded interview with NHAN DAN Deputy Editor in Chief Bui Tin by Do Van. In this installment, Bui Tin was asked three questions. First, on whether he thinks that the North has discriminated against the former leaders of the National Front for the Liberation of South Vietnam, Bui Tin says he disagrees with these allegations. Citing the case of General Tran Van Tra, Bui Tin contends that the ban on his memoirs does not reflect North-South discrimination. According to him, it is only a manifestation of the "narrow-minded" and "highhanded" official policy on all creative literary works deemed "unobjective" by the powerholders.

Replying to the second question about General Tran van Tra's "connection" with the southern Club of Former Resistance Fighters and about "excessively stiff measures" taken recently by the Vietnamese authorities against the club, Bui Tin admits having no first-hand knowledge of the club's activities but he describes them as "very normal."

The third question is about "division, disunity, and factionalism" within the party. Bui Tin says: "In my opinion, there is no clear manifestation of North-South division, disunity, and factionalism within party ranks. There is nothing like what they often say in the West, that is, this group is conservative, that group is progressive, this group stands for renovation, that group advocates change but not renovation, and so forth. There is nothing like that at all, I believe."

BBC in Vietnamese to Vietnam at 1430 GMT on 19 January features another eight-minute installment of the recorded interview with NHAN DAN Deputy Editor in Chief Bui Tin by Do Van. This extract contains a single question: Why has Bui Tin retained his party membership and his confidence in the CPV in spite of its abject failure in leading the country over the past 16 years?

Bui Tin explains by pointing to his long-standing affiliation with the CPV, the high moral and intellectual standards required of party members, and the "correctness" and "fine results" of the party leadership in the wars of resistance. However, he also admits that "for 15 years now, the party has repeatedly committed major blunders in socialist construction throughout the country." Listing "dogmatism, bureaucratism, bribery, corruption, subjectivism, and hastiness" as some of the party's "serious ailments" that have caused a "fairly widespread crisis of confidence," Bui Tin prescribes a cure: "At this juncture, the party sorely needs to carry out serious and incisive self-criticism. This is something not evident in the current draft documents [of the

Seventh Party Congress] because they still have a subjective and high-handed tone and a pompous and mendacious style, which the people are utterly fed up with. This is because these documents bear no relations to the real life of the country and do not provide correct solutions to the problems raised. I do not want to see the country plunging into the chaos and anarchy of East European countries, when the people rose in anger to reject the socialist regimes led by the communist parties. If this happened, it would be a disaster for the country. Enough tears and blood have already been shed during the past 40 years of war. I believe that this is a realistic position."

Assessing the CPV's role in the management of state affairs, Bui Tin charges that the party "has taken over the functions of elective organs for too long" and that this is a "violation of the constitution and the law." He says: "The party has too large a membership now. With its 1.7 million members, it has become almost a front. But too many party members no longer have a vanguard character and are even of poorer quality than people outside the party. This is the reason why many talented and self-respecting intellectuals and youths have no interest in joining the party." Bui Tin then ends his answer with a warning: "If no necessary path and no system of uniform and effective measures are found to take the country out of the crisis soon, disaster will befall."

At 1130 GMT on 20 January BBC in Vietnamese to Vietnam continues to broadcast the interview with Colonel Bui Tin by Do Van by carrying another nine-minute extract devoted to two questions.

Answering the first question about what he thinks the CPV should do to survive, Bui Tin suggests: "If the party weathers the crisis and regains its prestige—who does not long for this, although whether the party can do it or not remains a hypothetical question?—it should consolidate and trim its ranks and aim for quality rather than quantity. Only in this way will it be able to regain its vanguard character. It must think about readmitting [keets napj laij] party members and revoking party membership cards. It must also think about the necessity of having several parties and implementing a multiparty system. By the way, I would also like to say that the Vietnam Fatherland Front should have occupied a higher and more practical and effective position. It is the party's belittlement of the front that has led the latter to its current sorry state. The party should only be a member of the front, although it may be the most important one. In the future, the front should have several parties as its members. If there is no competition and mutual control and no counterbalance, the danger of bureaucratism, subjectivism, mistakes, corruption, arbitrariness, despotism, and abuse of power will persist. However, it is unrealistic and dangerous to ask the CPV to step down and turn over its leadership to another organization because it is no longer capable of leading. This is because there is no other political organization at present. And it can also be said that nearly all outstanding people among the workers, peasants, intellectuals, and the army are already in the party. This is an obvious fact that should be clearly realized. Another thing that should be mentioned is that because of the inadequate selection process, the party's present organ of leadership can hardly be said to include—as it should—the most talented, knowledgeable, honest, and dedicated people who constitute the cream of the nation. This is the crux of the matter."

In the second question, Bui Tin was asked why he continues to advocate the building of socialism in Vietnam while "Marxist-Leninist socialist regimes have collapsed one after another" in Eastern Europe. In his reply, Bui Tin admits that in his "citizen's petition" to the Vietnamese leadership, he raised the "immediate issue of concentrating on national reconstruction and affirming the choice of socialism." He then defends his preference by saying that "capitalism, with its social injustices, excessive inequality between the rich and poor, and the large-scale exploitation of the working people, is unacceptable." Therefore, Bui Tin concludes: "We should only choose socialism." He then goes on to qualify his choice: "In my opinion, socialism in our country must have Vietnamese tints and characteristics as well as specific national traits." Among the "most important things" he thinks socialism in Vietnam should have, Bui Tin lists "highly developed productive forces, suitable jobs with livable wages for everyone, democracy, social justice and increasing social welfare, and respect for moral and ethical values." He affirms: "I have no regret for the kind of socialism that is outdated, conservative, backward, and undemocratic. That is the kind of artificial, ailing socialism that is negated [phur dqinhj] by the people. It is negated because it is not genuine socialism. I long for a humanist, modern, and pluralist socialism where every man can achieve the highest development of personality, intelligence, and spirit as a responsible member to society, to his fellow countrymen, and to humanity; and where every man is not a passive grain of sand but a twinkling star of creative power with its own peculiar quality that helps make up the scintillating firmament."

BBC in Vietnamese to Vietnam at 1430 GMT on 26 January presents a 15-minute "continuation" of the interview with Colonel Bui Tin, deputy editor in chief of NHAN DAN, by Do Van. This installment contains a single question about Bui Tin's views on allegations voiced by a "nationalist Vietnamese" that the main cause of Vietnam's sufferings is the Communist ideology and that "all Vietnamese communists, including late President Ho Chi Minh, place the spirit of proletarian internationalism above the national spirit."

Bui Tin begins his response by extolling Ho Chi Minh's leadership. He affirms: "I can say that, from beginning to end, he was a patriot whose paramount objective was to achieve national independence and happiness for his people. He was a dedicated and honest, had vast knowledge, and great compassion." Then, Bui Tin recalls a series of events showing the close relations between himself and his father with Ho Chi Minh in the 1940's and 1950's. Noting that the Draft Platform to be discussed at the Seventh Party Congress advocates using "Ho Chi Minh's style and thoughts" as the party's "ideological base," he warns of the danger of "dogmatism and slavish imitation" posed by unjustified emphasis on the ideological aspects of Ho Chi Minh's legacy. He contends: "Marx, Lenin, or Ho Chi Minh never considered themselves as founders of any doctrine, any ideology. They just wanted to present their ideas and methods of thinking as a tool of cognition to be used by their contemporaries and the future generations solely as references and suggestions." Decrying people's attempts to turn the statements and writings of these leaders into a "Bible," "sacred pronouncements," and "eternal truth," Bui Tin suggests: "In my opinion, perhaps it should only be noted [in the Draft Platform] that 'we must carry out President Ho Chi Minh's advice and teachings, follow his examples of dedication and integrity, and study his flexible methods in combination with his sense of principle." But he stresses: "On the other hand, it is necessary to clearly see that only the present generation can resolve the problems of the period. No prophet or savant can find solutions for 70 or 155 years later, especially in view of the dizzying speed with which economic and political changes are now taking place worldwide."

Bui Tin relates how, in 1990, on the occasion of Ho Chi Minh's birth centenary, Vu Ky, the late president's personal secretary, arranged for the publication of the complete original version of Ho Chi Minh's Testament, which Bui Tin says "has been altered, cut, changed, and concealed for 20 years on end." Bui Tin also reveals that he was "harshly criticized by the leadership" for publishing Vu Ky's memoirs entitled "How Uncle Ho Wrote His Testament" in the weekly NHAN DAN CHU NHAT, which, Bui Tin claims, was "directly edited" by himself. Bui Tin says Vu Ky's article helped bring out into the open "three important facts": Ho Chi Minh's wish to have his remains cremated, his demand for a prompt reorganization of the party following complete victory, and his request for the immediate one-year tax exemption granted to peasants throughout the country following complete victory. Bui Tin recalls: "The Political Bureau was thrown into a passive position and had to meet twice to discuss this issue, and had to take the matter to the National Assembly. Mr. Vu Ky and I were jubilant. Although both of us were severely criticized for being undisciplined, disorganized, and going over the head of the organ of leadership, our gains were enormous. The issue of party reorganization was finally taken up, albeit exactly 15 years too late. Had this question been raised in 1975, the situation of the party would have been entirely different now."

Bui Tin questions the legitimacy and wisdom of the Vietnamese leadership's decision to have Ho Chi Minh's body embalmed, to build a mausoleum to preserve it, and to have a "very big museum" erected in his memory. He charges: "As a matter of fact, at the time the people throughout the country were not asked for their opinion at all, nor was the National Assembly consulted." He asks: "What would Uncle Ho think if he knew that his last wish was not fulfilled?" Looking askance at the newly completed Ho Chi Minh Museum, Bui Tin affirms: "No big museum can be as grandiose and comprehensive as Uncle Ho's spartan house on stilts." However, he cautions: "I mention these matters when everything has become a fait accompli, and it is very hard indeed to change them. It is necessary to discuss and weigh the pros and cons very carefully to find a solution. Hastiness should be avoided or everything will go bust." After flaying the construction of the Thang Long Bridge and the Da River Hydroelectric Power Plant as examples of showy projects that incur "incalculable waste of energy, time, and resources" and that were undertaken in disregard of the "opinion of scientists, technicians, and specialist," Bui Tin concludes: "I raised these matters not because I want to blame anyone, since in our country individual responsibility is always well concealed behind so-called collective responsibility, that is, nobody is responsible. But all this must be a profound lesson of the spirit of democracy, which calls for respect for the people and real implementation of the slogan 'consider the people as the base.' Otherwise, this watchword will just have the satirical and ironical meaning of 'consider the people as wooden clogs' or 'consider the people as medicine' [a play of words based on slogan in vernacular]—that is, to think little and take no notice of the people, to abuse the right to speak on behalf of the people, and to hold the masses in contempt, unintentionally or consciously, and in short, to trample upon the right of man to live in freedom."

Note: The announcer closes this installment by saying that broadcast of the Bui Tin interview is now "temporary halted" and promises the airing of "reactions at home and abroad" to the interview. He does not says how much is left of the interview or if or when the broadcast of the interview will resume. At 1430 GMT on 2 February, BBC in Vietnamese to Vietnam carries a 20-minute report on Vietnamese listeners' response to Bui Tin's statement. The radio cites letters from a number of listeners in Vietnam who asked for a complete recording or transcript, or a rebroadcast of the interview, saying they missed part of it because of poor reception or a lack of recording equipment. The radio also presents the views of other Vietnamese in Vietnam or abroad, most doubting the practicality and validity of Bui Tin's prescription for Vietnam's political and economic ailments. BBC, also citing REUTER, says "the first official reaction from Hanoi" is from Duong Thinh, director of the External Relations Department of the Ministry of the Culture, Information, Sports and Tourism Ministry. According to BBC, REUTER quotes Duong Thinh as saying that, "as a friend of Mr. Tin, I have the following opinion: It is our wish that Tin returns to Vietnam and expresses his views here, since putting forth his views abroad may cause misunderstanding."

BBC promises to present "further views and reaction" in its 9-10 February weekend programs.

DPRK Condemns U.S.-South Korea Exercise

BK0702154291 Hanoi VNA in English 1450 GMT 7 Feb 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Feb. 7—Ambassador of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) to Vietnam Ri Hong has described the current joint military exercise between the United States and South Korea as a gross challenge to his country, and an act that causes tension in the Korean peninsula.

At a press conference held here today to introduce the DPRK Foreign Ministry's statement on the joint military exercise, Ambassador Ri Hong said the government and people of the DPRK strongly condemn the aforesaid act of the United States and the South Korean authorities as a violation of peace dialogue for the reunification of Korea.

Ambassador to Kabul Meets Afghan Prime Minister

BK0802102391 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 7 Feb 91

[Text] On 5 February, Fazl Haq Khaliqyar, prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, received Comrade Nguyen Ngoc Sinh, Vietnamese ambassador plenipotentiary and extraordinary to Afghanistan, who paid a courtesy visit to the prime minister.

After informing the Vietnamese ambassador of the main issues in the Afghan situation, especially the national reconciliation policy initiated by President Najibullah, Prime Minister Khaliqyar highly valued the correct policy of Vietnam in resolutely supporting Afghanistan's constructive suggestions for finding a political solution to the problems in that country. He also praised the Vietnamese people's sentiments for the Afghan people in the cause of building and defending Afghanistan.

Prime Minister Khaliqyar hailed the resistance of the Vietnamese people against foreign invading forces and expressed his firm belief that the Vietnamese will overcome all difficulties and challenges to building a happy and prosperous Vietnam.

Prime Minister Khaliqyar confirmed that the Republic of Afghanistan will do its best to further develop the relations and cooperation between the two countries.

On this occasion, Prime Minister Khaliqyar asked the ambassador to convey his wishes to Do Muoi, Council of Ministers chairman, and the Vietnamese leaders.

Hanoi Participates in Berlin Agricultural Fair

BK0802091091 Hanoi VNA in English 0658 GMT 8 Feb 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA February 8—For the first time Vietnam took part in the agricultural fair named "International Green Week" held in Berlin recently.

The country was represented at the 50th "Green Week" fair by the Import, Export and Investment Cooperation Corporation (IMEXCO) which displayed coffee, cashew, rare wood, ornamental plants and various aquatic products.

During the fair, IMEXCO won several trade contracts, including a timber export one worth 140,000 U.S. dollars.

Correction to Trade Talks With USSR

BK0802042691

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Government Reviews Trade Talks With USSR," published in the 6 February East Asia DAILY REPORT, page 50:

Column two, paragraph one, first sentence, make read: ...in our country.

In 1991, the volume of... (changing year to 1991)

Australia

Hawke Agrees With Bush on Postwar Gulf Efforts

BK0802080891 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 8 Feb 91

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Hawke, said he shares the commitments with President Bush to ensure that all efforts are made to resolve the problems of the Middle East once the Gulf war is over. Mr. Hawke said President Bush telephoned him and that they had spent nearly half an hour discussing the Gulf war.

He said they discussed not only current developments but also the future. Mr. Hawke added that he had been reassured by President Bush's reiteration that only military and strategic targets were being pursued by forces in the American-led coaltion against Iraq.

Papua New Guinea

Government, Bougainville Leaders Differ on Accord

BK0802025091 Hong Kong AFP in English 2131 GMT 7 Feb 91

[Text] Port Moresby, Feb 7 (AFP)—The Papua New Guinea Government and Bougainville Island leaders were differing Thursday over a declaration signed a fortnight ago that was hailed as a end to a bloody secessionist war.

Provincial Affairs Minister Father John Momis Thursday told reporters that Bougainville leaders were disputing clauses in the the Honiara declaration that provide for the surrender and destruction of militant weapons.

They also disputed who should be the legal authority on Bougainville, he said.

While Bougainville leaders have agreed to hand in weapons to a multinational peace-keeping force, they do not want them destroyed, he said at a joint press conference with Prime Minister Rabbie Namaliu.

It was an "oversight" that both parties had not deleted the clause on the destruction of weapons from the peace treaty, he said.

Fr. Momis said Bougainville delegation leader Joseph Kabui at Honiara, capital of neighbouring Solomon Islands where the peace talks took place, was having trouble convincing Bougainville Revolutionary Army (BRA) leaders to let their weapons be destroyed.

Mr. Namaliu said a task force to oversee peace on Bougainville had been appointed and would report to Fr. Momis.

This is despite the BRA stating it wants the Bougainville interim government declared in May to be the authority on the island.

Despite the differences with Bougainville leaders both Fr. Momis and Mr. Namaliu expressed confidence that peace would be achieved on Bougainville, where a two-year war left at least 100 dead according to official estimates.

The origins of the conflict trace to landowners seeking compensation from the giant Australian-run copper mine on Bougainville.

The leaders said formal requests to participate in a peace- keeping force had been sent to Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands.

Mr. Namaliu announced that a shipment of medical supplies would leave Rabaul in the New Guinea Islands next Wednesday for Bougainville.

It will be the first shipment of medical supplies to the island since it was blockaded by Port Moresby after the BRA declared independence in May.

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USSR Academy of Sciences' Oriental Studies Institute and concurrently director of the Japan Research Center; and Vsevolod Ovchinnikov, PRAVDA political observer; Kono and Frolov acted as moderators]

[Excerpts]

Asian Disarmament and Security

Frolov: This event signals a particularly important milestone—jointly sponsored roundtable talks—as it is being held prior to President Gorbachev's upcoming Japan visit. Our talks will contribute not only to the promotion of Japanese-Soviet friendship but will also help prepare for the president's visit to Japan.

President Gorbachev's visit to Japan will be historic. This is not just because it will be the first time that a Soviet president visits Japan. Very important decisions will be made and various important agreements signed during his visit. Thanks to these developments, Japanese-Soviet relations will enter a new phase.

The themes for today's discussions are: "Issues Related to Arms Reduction and Security in the Asia-Pacific" and "Japanese-Soviet Relations." These are important topics. In today's Asia-Pacific region, big changes, with global import, are occurring. Some go as far as to say that some of the (world's) nerve center is being transferred to this region. This region's role is becoming more weighty, and the Soviet Union is keenly interested.

For the Soviet Union, the Asia-Pacific region and Japan is becoming increasingly important.

On one side of the Pacific Ocean is the Soviet Union, on the other the United States. The relationship of the United States and the Soviet Union across the ocean is extremely important for today's world.

We hope that Japanese-Soviet relations will develop and that a peace treaty will be concluded between the two countries. [passage omitted]

Panov: A new process is making regional progress in Asia and the Pacific. It is tied to the economic process and inevitably calls for political and military stability.

This region has fallen behind global processes. I mean to say that there is no regional or subregional mechanism for debating issues. Improved relations between the Soviet Union and the United States will have an increasingly active and favorable influence on this region.

Holding a security conference on the whole region is a pending task; more and more countries are taking an interest in it. To cite an affirmative example, a regional foreign ministerial conference was convened last summer at the initiative of the Japanese and Indonesian foreign ministers. However, the convocation of a regional conference is not a task that can be resolved immediately. Therefore, I suggest that these conferences be held on a subregional level.

These conferences should include one which will discuss improved relations between Indochina and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and one on the East China Sea.

Many countries in this region are still wary of Japan. They are particularly wary of Japan's future military policy. I think that this is similar to the situation of Germany in Europe. But various mechanisms for security are in the making in Europe in order to eradicate such anxieties. Therefore, I think that if a mechanism or a structure is established in Asia like the one in Europe, anxieties about Japan will ease. [passage omitted]

Panov: We are well aware of Japan's defense policy and that the U.S. military presence in Japan also serves as a guarantee that Japan will not become a military power. But can this policy be guaranteed with Japanese democracy, after U.S. forces withdraw, for instance?

Matsunaga: This is not something that can be guaranteed by merely advocating such concepts as "peace," "liberty," or "democracy." Japan has a defense program which is open and aboveboard, and we hope that in the same way, the Soviet Union will make its military structure in the Far East more transparent and easily understandable to everyone.

Ovchinnikov: The Soviet Union wants to negotiate with the United States concerning naval forces. In addition, the Soviet Union has continually expressed its readiness to sign an international agreement for not using nuclear arms against Japan. This, however, is on condition that Japan abides by its three nonnuclear principles [not manufacturing, not using, and not storing nuclear arms].

Disarmament should be carried out on the basis of a consensus while building up confidence. Matters ranging from the environment to traffic safety should also be debated as part of the security issue in the Asian and Pacific region. How about applying the principles of the Bandung conference (of 1955, where 10 principles of peace were adopted) which have borne fruit in Asia?

Someone has suggested that the Korean peninsula is the place to start coming to grips with issues of the Asian and Pacific region. President Gorbachev has proposed beginning talks on the Korean peninsula, which is a point of contact between China and the Soviet Union. ROK President No Tae-u has also proposed consultations among six nations, adding Japan and the United States to the other four, and Prime Minister Kaifu has endorsed this idea.

Regarding Japan's defense policy, Japan's military budget is second only to those of the United States and the UK. I am afraid that Japan should limit its military spending to its defensive needs only, without making it expansionary. [passage omitted]

Sarkisov: Speaking about Japanese-Soviet relations, it is important that the bilateral relationship becomes normalized, at the very least, by concluding a peace treaty.

I don't know what the president will have in his bag, but there is no doubt that he will have a proposal on Japanese-Soviet relations. There can be three types of proposals—one where the Soviet Union takes unilateral steps (actions), one where just the two countries take steps, or one where several countries take steps.

If it's a case of the Soviet Union taking unilateral steps, then it has to be confident that this effort can lead to bilateral or multinational steps eventually.

It is necessary that the Soviet Union has direct contacts and exchanges with Japan on military matters. Japan does not welcome such contacts between military offices of the two countries, but I think contacts and exchanges between three nations of Japan, the United States, and the Soviet Union should be possible.

In areas of economy and trade, there are no mutual, complementing functions between Japan and the Soviet Union. Yet Japan can do many things alone. Japan is contributing to solving social problems of other countries in the region by providing substantial economic assistance to them. Meanwhile, the Soviet Union has political influence and power. The two countries should be able to cooperate, based on these respective positions. The two countries can cooperate on the Korean and Cambodian issues. But the cooperative relationship should not be limited just to the Asian and Pacific region; this cooperation can be made across the world. [passage omitted]

Yakovlev: Recently I have been meeting with many Japanese—four to five days a week. They include politicians, businessmen, and social activists. Sometimes, before the discussions, I feel that problems are clear. But the reality is that as discussions go into depth, the problems become difficult for me to understand.

Talking about international relations, it can be said that the state of international relations in the Asian and Pacific region falls behind that of Europe. But there are objective conditions which can make the process progress in the region as far as it has in Europe. There are some regional characteristics (which are different from those in Europe), but in my view conditions exist which can make the process there less difficult than in Europe.

Let's cite some examples. Over the past five years, the Soviet Union has improved relations with China. Large-scale mutual reductions in military strength on border areas have been carried out by both sides, and further negotiations are being made with regard to the matter. Besides, since the end of World War II, there has never been an instance of the military situation deteriorating between the Soviet Union and Japan. I think there are no grounds for Japan to consider the Soviet Union a military threat.

The Soviet Union has pulled its troops out of Mongolia and has also normalized relations with South Korea.

To speak about the defense policy of Japan, even I do not think that Japan would make a surprise invasion of the Soviet Union. At present there are no nations which have invasion, not defense, as the aim of their military policy. Likewise, the military policy of the Soviet Union is not one of invasion. I would like Japan to believe this.

My way of thinking can invite arguments, but I cannot agree to Mr. Sarkisov's view that "the relations in the region cannot be improved without a peace treaty concluded (between Japan and the Soviet Union). No doubt, a peace treaty is desirable and necessary, but it is possible that such a treaty cannot be concluded for one reason or another, thus requiring further diplomatic efforts. When that is the given condition, I think it would be wrong to make the conclusion of a peace treaty a condition for the improvement of relations and for any diplomatic efforts made in this area.

Speaking about Japanese-Soviet relations only, I believe that the two countries should overcome all difficulties and achieve further progress in their bilateral relations. I think there have been considerable changes in the thinking of Japanese business circles in this regard.

I am convinced that with top leaders of the two countries exchanging visits, there will be progress and results. Bilateral relations must not be stopped for reasons of certain pending issues. Throughout the world there is an ongoing trend of upholding the interests of mankind as supreme above everything else. I think that Japan and the Soviet Union should not remove themselves from this trend.

Kono: Shall we shift our discussions to the topic of Japan-USSR relations at this stage?

Matsunaga: President Gorbachev's visit to Japan will become a foundation for the further development of Japanese-Soviet relations in the future. I hope he will use his initiatives actively. During his visit, I think as many as 10 agreements will be concluded, including those on trade, culture, and the peaceful use of space. But what is more important is that there are growing possibilities that Japan and the Soviet Union will make a big jump in their relations in the international arena.

There remains the territories question, but that cannot be the sole subject of relations between Japan and the Soviet Union.

On the other hand, we cannot talk about the Japanese-Soviet relations and exclude the territories question. For the Japanese-Soviet relations to make progress, the conclusion of a peace treaty is necessary, and the territorial question must be resolved in order to achieve an early conclusion of such a treaty. The governments of the two countries are fully aware of the position of the other side, and the situation is now at a stage when they have to make high-level political judgments and decisions. From the viewpoint of improving Japanese-Soviet relations, there can be no solution without the return of the four islands.

What I want to say here is that from the standpoint of Japan, the Soviet occupation of the islands over the past 40 some years has been unlawful, but Japan has to recognize the fact that the Soviet Union has in fact controlled the islands during that period. The Soviet Union has also made investments to create assets there. In addition, we must take into account the fact that 30,000 Soviet people are living there.

My personal view is that it is important that the 30,000 Soviet residents be ensured of a stable life and well-being. For that reason, it is desirable that we think about recognizing their right to continue to live there and take Japanese nationality if they should desire. And for those wishing to leave the islands, we should also think about providing them with means to return to the Soviet Union.

I would like to make the following appeal strongly, not only to the Soviet Government, but also to the Soviet people. An age of Asia and the Pacific is arriving before us. Whether this region can become a center of the world depends greatly on how the cooperative relationship between Japan and the Soviet Union can contribute to the stability and prosperity of this region. I certainly hope that the president's visit to Japan will become an opportunity for this message to be conveyed to the people of the two nations.

Kono: The proposal of Mr. Matsunaga appears concrete and very suggestive. Will the Soviet side comment on it, please?

Panov: I think the proposal of Mr. Matsunagta is constructive and interesting. I also think that bilateral relations between the Soviet Union and Japan should be elevated to a higher level or to the worldwide level. In the past, the two countries, when sitting at negotiations and talking about international issues, never went beyond merely expressing their respective positions. But for the first time, the two countries agreed to take a joint diplomatic action at their foreign ministers' meeting in September last year. This came in the form of issuing a joint statement regarding the Persian Gulf crisis. We think that the two countries can now make such joint statements regarding various other issues too.

In reference to the Korean question, I think we can make efforts to lessen the tensions on the Korean peninsula without intervening in the domestic affairs of the two countries—South and North Korea. I also believe that the Soviet Union and Japan can consider taking joint action on other regional issues in the Asian and Pacific region. To speak about the second point raised by Mr. Matsunaga, the question of a peace treaty is very complicated and difficult. There is no simple solution to it. I think what is most important is to move toward improvement of the Soviet-Japanese relations and toward further development of these relations in various directions. One of these directions is in the political area, meaning the two countries cooperating and taking joint steps in the international arena.

Another direction should be for a fundamental change in economic relations. A new form of economic cooperation must be sought.

The question of trust in the military area is another important direction. Groundless apprehensions or uneasiness should be removed by mutual contacts in the military sector. In the Soviet-Japanese foreign ministers' talks last September, the Soviet side presented some concrete ideas, including one on mutual contacts by military personnel. The idea envisages personnel on each side making very ordinary proposals to each other and delegations from both nations' military and defense agencies exchanging visits. Replies to these proposed ideas are due to be made at the foreign ministers' talks in Moscow on 22 and 23 January.

A fourth direction concerns the question of personnel exchanges. Exchanges between citizens from the Soviet's coastal and Far East areas and citizens from Japan's Hokkaido and prefectures on the Sea of Japan should grow to a level involving thousands and tens of thousands of people. Only when that is realized can mutual trust and respect be built to a degree whereby even the most difficult problems can be resolved.

Lastly, there was a reference to agreements being readied for signing at the time of the summit talks. Some of them are treaties which could deepen the mutual understanding between the people of the two nations. One of them deals with the question of visiting graveyards in the other side's territories and the issue of graveyards existing in Soviet and Japanese territories. I think one of the most important problems for the two countries can be solved with the solution of these issues. [passage omitted]

Sarkisov: When Soviet-Japanese relations are taken into account, the territorial issue is something like a bone that has stuck in one's throat. Even with this situation, there is no problem with eating or drinking. However, it certainly is an obstacle. Now, the point at issue is how to pull this bone out. For this purpose, it is essential that basic interests of our two nations should never be impaired.

Concerning President Gorbachev's visit to Japan, what I would like to state here is entirely my own personal views: First of all, he should not bring along with him the old plans or concepts that the Soviet Union used to cherish. Secondly, the Japanese side should pay attention to the fact that a certain change can be noticed in the official stance of the Soviet Union. Former Foreign Minister Shevardnadze stated in Tokyo last September an idea that "both sides should move towards meeting with each other," and then President Gorbachev himself did the same in late December, both in their interviews with ASAHI SHIMBUN. The idea was stated in a very cautious way. However, it indicates that compromise can be achieved with each side making concessions.

When viewed from the standpoint of international law, there are two documents that can be used for a decision on the territories of both Japan and the Soviet Union. One is the San Francisco Peace Treaty, and the other is the Joint Japanese-Soviet Statement issued in 1956. The legal status of the two islands, Kunashiri and Etorofu, is different from that of the other two islands. If Japan wants to claim its territorial right to Kunashiri and Etorofu, it must prove that these two islands do not belong to the Kurile Islands. The Soviet Union committed a mistake in not participating in the signing of the San Francisco Peace Treaty. However, in signing this treaty, Japan has internationally abandoned its rights to the Kurile Islands. As far as the Soviet Union is concerned, it has stated its position on agreeing to hold talks on the other two islands, Habomai and Shikotan, and based on the talks, a peace treaty can be signed. Methodologically speaking, I feel that the Japanese argument on demanding the return of the four islands is wrong.

I am convinced that what President Gorbachev will state in Japan on the territorial issue will be closely connected with the domestic situation in the Soviet Union. Meanwhile, we are experiencing a most difficult domestic situation. On the other hand, we are well aware that if there should be no major progress during his upcoming visit, it would lead to a serious disappointment in the Japanese public's opinion and result in an adverse influence on Japanese-Soviet relations.

Ovchinnikov: What I am going to state now is also my own personal view. However, would it not be possible to view the argument on the territories from the standpoint of regarding it as an instrument for solving various problems for the whole of mankind in the future?

How about the idea of establishing a free economic zone or a Japanese-Soviet joint ventures zone on the islands with local residents' agreement as a prerequisite? I mean that the Soviet Union will provide its own territories to Japan while Japan will supply its capital to the Soviet Union. And offices of representatives from various UN commissions or organizations can be set up on these islands to engage in such causes as environmental protection, oceanic research, and earthquake prediction. When any serious disasters should take place somewhere, these islands could then be turned into an international relief region. Japanese capital can be invested freely on the islands so as to promote development and tourism programs for Hokkaido residents, and interest gained from such programs can be used to solve global problems. Such programs can certainly be worked out.

In my opinion, we can take these measures and leave the settlement of the northern territorial issue to future generations. I feel that by the mid-21st century, the condition of the boundaries between various nations will become quite different from the current condition. In pursuing its diplomacy in the past, Japan "shelved" such problems as the Senkaku Islands issue between Japan and China and also the Takeshima island issue between Japan and the ROK.

If the four islands should be used in such a way as to solve various problems for the whole of mankind, it would probably lead to growing international prestige of both Japan and the Soviet Union and also to prosperity in the Orient. Some public opinion in the eastern Soviet Union hold that it would be quite possible to carry out the ideas which have just been mentioned. [passage omitted]

How Would Japanese-Soviet Friendship Be Promoted?

Frolov: Various views on the territorial issue have been stated today. Among them are new approaches, too. Since President Gorbachev has stated his own view on methodology in his recent interview with ASAHI SHIMBUN, the territorial issue will be settled on the basis of this methodology.

In dealing with an issue, it is essential to start from the present reality, take the future into consideration, never give up optimistic hopes, and solve difficult problems by settling easier problems first.

Perhaps, we too will soon be informed of concrete proposals that the president will make during his upcoming visit to Japan. The upcoming visit to Japan will be a significant event. However, I don't think that everything will be settled during this visit. Talks on the promotion of bilateral relations will have to be continued further. [passage omitted]

Yakolev's Fall To Affect Moscow's Japan Policy

OW2101141291 Tokyo YOMIURI SHIMBUN in Japanese 21 Jan 91 Morning Edition p 3—FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

[Text] The independent Soviet information service INTERFAX has reported that Aleksandr Yakovlev, Yevgeniy Primakov, and other reformist leaders who have held key posts in the Gorbachev administration will not be participating in the new Kremlin leadership.

Commenting on this, a Foreign Ministry source on 20 January said, "It is inevitable that this will seriously influence Soviet-Japanese policy, which has heretofore been formulated as pro-Japanese, as well as influence the perestroyka (restructuring) policy itself." The government is trying to confirm facts quickly as its concern grows.

Yakovlev, the "No. 1 member of the brain trust" assembled by President Gorbachev, is believed to be the one who, in fact, drafted perestroyka and the new thinking diplomacy, or reforms in the Soviet domestic and foreign policies. The same Foreign Ministry source said, "Along with Mr. Primakov, he is known to be well versed in Japanese affairs. Soviet-Japanese policy has heretofore been formulated under the influence of the two."

Regarding the trends of the Gorbachev administration's trend toward conservatism, as witnessed by the rise of the conservative faction led by the military in the wake of former Foreign Minister Shevardnadze's resignation announcement and the Soviet military's intervention in Lithuania, the Foreign Ministry has been keeping a close watch on the moves of the two.

Paper on USSR's 'Unsettled Import Payments'

OW2301032291 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN in Japanese 22 Jan 91 Morning Edition p 11—FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

[Text] According to the USSR and Eastern Europe Trade Association (President: Toshikuni Yazumi, adviser to Mitsui Company), the Soviet failure to settle payments for imports from Japan at the end of December last year amounted to $377 million. At governmental talks held in late December last year, the Japanese asked the Soviets to take necessary measures to settle this question and the Soviets promised to do their utmost to settle the question within last year. Nonetheless, much of the payment for imports from Japan still remains unsettled. Officials in trading firms are increasingly concerned about recovering their export payments in the wake of the Soviet military intervention in Lithuania and Latvia.

The association compiled the unsettled import payments by the Soviet Union, based on the outcome of a survey on major trading firms which are its members. The unsettled import payments by the Soviet Union as of the end of September last year reached $414 million. Since October, the Soviet Union has paid $132 million in import payments. However, these payments reduced the Soviet unsettled import payments by only $37 million, because that country failed to settle $95 million in payments for subsequent imports from Japan.

At the Japan-Soviet trade consultative talks held in late October last year, the Soviet side promised to settle the delayed import payments. In compliance with the promise, the Soviet Union began to settle delayed payments for the import of steel products from Japan, and this at once raised hopes among trading firms that the Soviet Union would soon settle its delayed import payments.

However, a large amount of delayed import payments by the Soviet Union remained unsettled, even at the end of last year, and major trading firms are increasingly venting their discontent, saying that "we plan to ask the Soviet side again to settle this question at a joint Japan-Soviet Economic Committee meeting, scheduled for late this month." If the West reviews its plans for aid to the Soviet Union because of the situation in the three Baltic nations, this will certainly make it more difficult for the Soviet Union to earn foreign currencies, and this would create difficult problems on which Japanese trading firms would have to rack their brains.

USSR Pays 'Part' of Arrears on Chemical Imports

OW3101140191 Tokyo JIJI in English 1254 GMT 31 Jan 91—FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 31 (JIJI PRESS)—The Soviet Union has paid part of the arrears owed to Japanese trading houses on chemical product imports, industry sources said Thursday.

The payments were limited to chemical products essential to the country and each payment was made in small lot, ranging from one million to several million dollars, the sources said. But the move indicates the Soviet Union has begun to tackle positively the problem of overdue payments in the chemical field, they said.

According to Japan's major trading houses, the Soviet Union's overdue payments to Japan totaled 377 million dollars at the end of last year, with the biggest portion owed by Soyuzkhimeksport, a public corporation for chemical products exports and imports.

Japanese trading firms are taking a tough stance on the matter, saying they will not make any commercial deals with the Soviet Union except those covered by letters of credit from Vneshekonombank, the Soviet bank of foreign economic affairs.

At a subcomoittee session of the ongoing joint meeting of the Japan-Soviet Business Cooperation Committee and its Soviet counterpart Thursday, the Japanese side called for the Soviet Union to take a strong initiative for an early resolution of the overdue payment problem.

Government 'Cautious' on Expansion of Soviet Ports

OW3101142091 Tokyo JIJI in English 1309 GMT 31 Jan 91—FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 31 (JIJI PRESS)—Soviet Merchant Marine Minister Yuriy M. Volmer Thursday asked for Japan's cooperation for improvement and expansion of two Soviet ports.

He made the request at a working group session on port transportation, one of eight working groups of the ongoing joint meeting of the Japan-Soviet Business Cooperation Committee and its Soviet counterpart that started here Wednesday.

Foreign ships are now allowed to call at Vanino and Korsakov, two Soviet Far East ports, and the Soviet Union plans to improve and expand these ports, he said.

The Japanese side showed a cautious attitude toward the Soviet request, saying that it will decide whether to cooperate in the Soviet plan after ascertaining the future course of trade in the Far East.

Vladivostok Preparing To Dismantle Trade Barriers

OW1701213891 Tokyo ASAHI EVENING NEWS in English 16 Jan 91 p 4—FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

[Text] Vladivostok, a Soviet seaport on the Sea of Japan that promises to become a trade center in the Soviet Far East, is beckoning Japanese firms, including fishery companies and home appliance makers. They plan to establish joint ventures there.

Vladivostok, which has the largest military installations in the Far East, had been closed to foreigners for many years after the end of World War II. Now that the Soviet Union is moving to a market economy, the city is gearing up to dismantle some of its commercial and trade barriers.

Japanese companies, setting their sights on this potentially prosperous city, believe it will become a lot easier to do business there than in other Soviet cities if military harbor and airport facilities are made available for civilian use.

Authorities in Vladivostok declared last September that the city would be opened to foreign businesses, following the example of Nakhodka, another port city on the Sea of Japan. Nakhodka, the hub of foreign trade with Japan and other Asian countries, is now pushing a program to set up a special economic zone, but harbor facilities there are said to be reaching the limit of their capacity.

Government To Assist With Soviet Economic Reform

OW1401065891 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN in Japanese 5 Jan 91 Morning Edition p 1—FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

[Text] The Japanese Government will provide the Soviet Union with extensive informational assistance in the fiscal, monetary, and distribution areas as part of its efforts to cooperate with that country's economic reform. In the fiscal and monetary areas, the government plans to provide the informational know-how, including preparations of budgets, to a Soviet Finance Ministry survey team, scheduled to visit Japan in February. In the distribution area, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry [MITI] plans to send an official-private mission to the Soviet Union this spring to provide the Soviets with managerial know-how regarding retail sales. The government also plans to support the Soviet bid for special membership in the IMF and to help international organizations provide the Soviets with consultancy services in the formulation of economic policies. Industrialized nations, including European nations, are cautious about extending financial aid to the Soviet Union because of that country's political and economic confusion. Therefore, Japan will focus on informational assistance instead of financial assistance for the time being.

The Soviet Finance Ministry has informed the Japanese Finance Ministry about its plans to send five to 10 senior officials to Japan so that they can familiarize themselves with the know-how related to the formulation of fiscal and monetary policies. The Japanese Finance Ministry is expected to receive the officials in January, at the earliest, as it has completed the work for the 1991 government budget. The Japanese Finance Ministry plans to provide know-how on 1) how to set ceilings on preliminary budget requests, a pillar of budgetary formulation work; 2) on economic coordination through a flexible fiscal management; 3) on market coordination and the coordination of monetary policy through official discount rates, and 4) on foreign exchange policy.

The Japanese Finance Ministry wants to bring the Soviet fiscal and monetary system closer to that of Western nations by providing such informational assistance. It also wants to help the Soviets introduce a convertible currency and curb inflation through the implementation of more flexible fiscal and monetary policies.

In the distribution area, the MITI plans to send an economic survey mission comprised of representatives of retail, wholesale, trading, and service enterprises to the Soviet Union. The ministry also is examining plans to invite Soviet managers engaged in distribution-related enterprises to Japan.

The Soviet Union faces the following problem: Although perishable food and daily necessities are produced in sufficient amounts in producing areas, they cannot be transported quickly to consumers. The MITI plans to cooperate with the Soviets in resolving the shortage of goods in such major cities as Moscow by providing technology related to storage, transportation, and freezing through mutual exchanges between enterprises of the two countries.

At a meeting with Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze in mid-December last year, President Bush expressed his intention to back the Soviet bid for special membership in the Soviet Union. For its part, Japan in principle plans to support the Soviet bid. The IMF cannot treat the Soviet Union as an associate member without the consent of its member nations. Therefore, Japan and the United States plan to call upon the member nations to support the Soviet bid.

Soviets Seek Hokkaido Aid in Developing Resources

OW2301185091 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN in Japanese 23 Jan 91 Morning Edition p 5—FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

[Text] Three regions and oblasts in the Soviet Far East, including the Russian Republic—the largest republic in the Soviet Union—and Sakhalin Oblast, have sounded out the Hokkaido Prefectural Government and business circles there on economic assistance in developing underground resources and marine resources, including those in waters surrounding the northern territories. The Soviet proposal consists of a total of 70 projects. The proposals will be made officially at the joint working-level talks between Hokkaido and the Russian Republic scheduled to open 28 January.

The Russian Republic, Sakhalin Oblast, Maritime Kray, and Khabarovsk Kray have asked Hokkaido's cooperation in such projects as natural gas development on the Sakhalin continental shelf and development of coal, iron, and manganese mines in Khabarovsk. The Maritime Kray is asking in particular for construction of a cement plant and improvement of tourist facilities.

Moreover, Sakhalin Oblast has sounded out Hokkaido on the joint development of undeveloped marine resources in waters off the Chishima Islands (known as the Kurile Islands in Russian), including the northern territories. However, the Hokkaido Prefectural Government thinks that it will be difficult to deal with projects related to the northern territories since the territotial issue is yet to be settled.

Sakhalin Governor Seeks Aid for Market Economy

OW0202130991 Tokyo YOMIURI SHIMBUN in Japanese 2 Feb 91 Morning Edition p 6—FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

["Summary" of interview with Valentin Fedorov, chairman of the Sakhalin Oblast Soviet Executive Committee, by a unidentified YOMIURI SHIMBUN reporter in Tokyo on 1 February]

[Text] A YOMIURI SHIMBUN reporter interviewed Valentin Fedorov, chairman (governor) of the Sakhalin Oblast Soviet Executive Committee on the evening of 1 February. The chairman is now visiting Japan to attend the Joint Japan-Soviet Economic Committee.

Admitting the current political and economic confusion in the Soviet Union in the interview, the chairman stressed that "to not move the trend of political and economic democratization in the Soviet Union backward, we will have to make successful the plans to turn Sakhalin Oblast into a model of market economy." After stressing the need for $200 million in a mini-Marshal plan for financially helping the plans, the chairman asked for Japan's cooperation.

The Soviet Union is facing mounting domestic confusion, and perestroyka in the economic area centering on the introduction of a market economy is about to go bankrupt. The chairman is believed to have made the proposal for financial aid to his oblast with the intent of carrying through the perestroyka line in his oblast, which is geographically far away from a Moscow which lies in confusion, by obtaining aid from Japan, a neighbor of the oblast. With the northern territories issue still unresolved and the Baltic issue freshly arising, attention is being paid to how the Japanese Government will respond to this proposal.

The following is a summary of the interview:

[YOMIURI SHIMBUN] How do you see the current domestic situation in the Soviet Union?

Fedorov: Our nation is facing great difficulties. Our nation is somewhat like an aircraft which cannot lower its wheels for landing and does not not know how to land. The Communist Party, the KGB, and the military are on the move. Our nation might return to power politics.

[YOMIURI SHIMBUN] Then, what can your nation do?

Fedorov: Any aid to the federation, which is sticking to an old system, will end up wasted. The aid should be given to local governments which are working continuously for the introduction of a market economy. Specifically speaking, I would like to request that such aid be provided to our Sakhalin Oblast. This is something which can be called a "mini-Marshal plan."

[YOMIURI SHIMBUN] What are the contents of the plan?

Fedorov: We plan to put fostering private enterprises and streamlining goods, grain, and stock markets on track for two years from 1991 to 1992. We need $200 million in foreign aid for that purpose. We will not use the foreign aid for consumer goods like food, but use it for a self-reliant economy.

[YOMIURI SHIMBUN] There are signs showing the likelihood of restoring a "centrally controlled economy." There is a limit to the power of the oblast, is there not?

Fedorov: We naturally are concerned about such signs. We founded 300 private enterprises in the past year. We opened the commodity trade center in January this year and plan to open a wheat trade center and a stock exchange in March.

[YOMIURI SHIMBUN] If the federal government imposes restrictions, how will you deal with them?

Fedorov: We already have set out on a capitalistic road. We will move forward even if we face restrictions from the federal government. Confusion facing the federal government will continue for two years. If we achieve tangible results during those years, President Gorbachev has no choice but to recognize our success in shifting to a market economy. I hope that Japanese leaders will make as wise a judgment as U.S. President Truman, who implemented the Marshal Plan.

Mongolia

Roundtable Discusses Relations With PRC

OW0802082091 Ulaanbaatar MONTSAME in English to BAKHTAR Kabul 1740 GMT 7 Feb 91—FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, February 7 (OANA-MONTSAME)—The shortage of information about China's socio-economic problems today became the main reason that our side lags behind the (?swell) of development of

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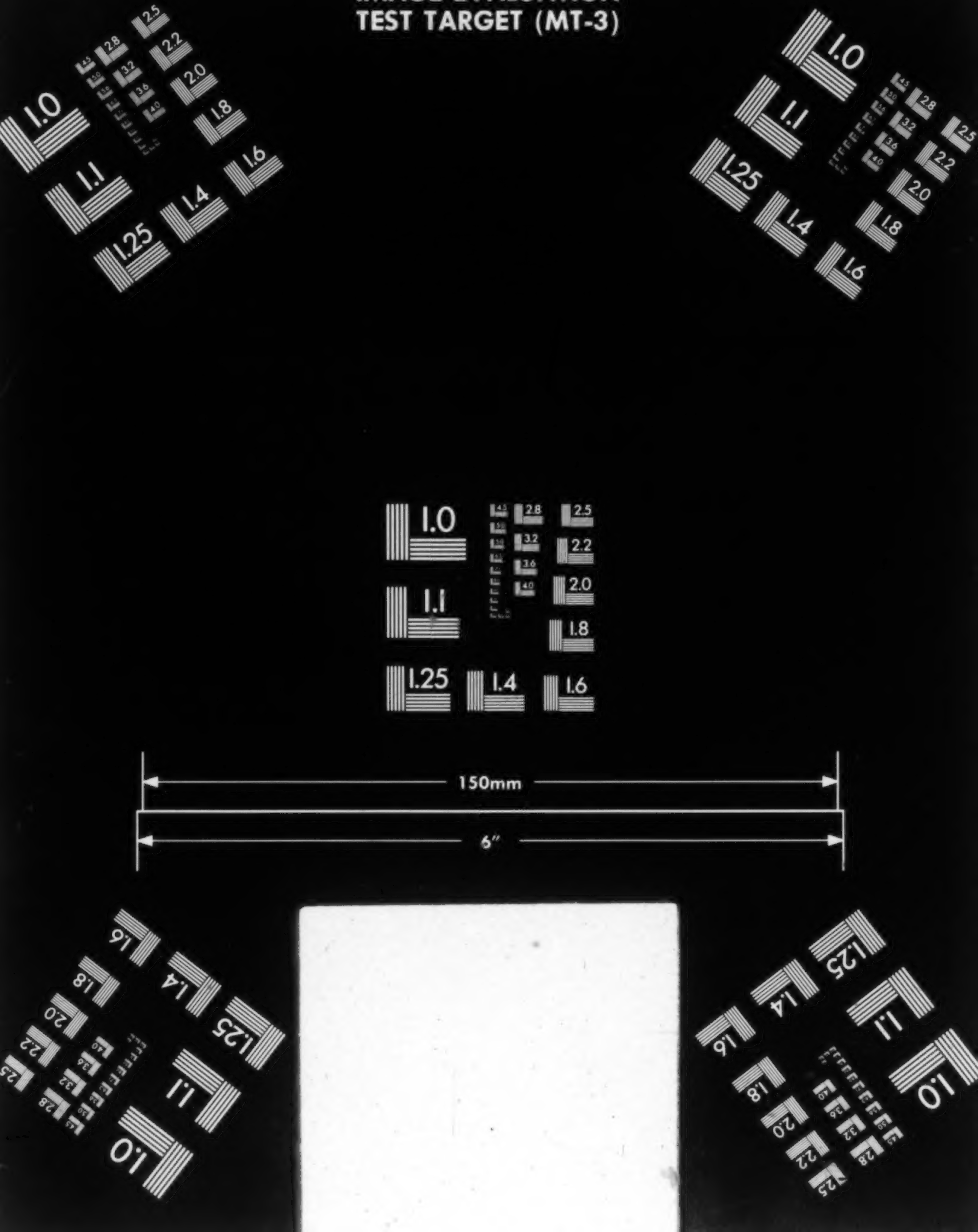
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